

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TUCSON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD TO
DECLARE SUPPORT FOR SAFETY AND MENTAL HEALTH**

WHEREAS, Tucson Unified School District prioritizes the safety and well-being of our students, employees, and community members, by providing safe and welcoming spaces and recognizing that mental health is a major component of school safety; and

WHEREAS, student safety is a prerequisite for consistently high levels of academic and social development; and

WHEREAS, half of children in the U.S. will meet some sort of diagnostic criteria for a mental or emotional disorder at some point in their lifetime, with the age of onset typically occurring during childhood or adolescence; and

WHEREAS, among 15-24 year olds, suicide is the second leading cause of death in both Arizona and in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in the past ten years, firearm suicide has increased in children and teens by 61%; and

WHEREAS, our public schools are charged not only with supporting student achievement, but also providing support for mental and physical health, personal growth and civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, all students deserve access to services supporting and enhancing their physical, mental, and emotional health; and

WHEREAS, Tucson Unified School District acknowledges that mental health is a major component of school safety and gun violence and that school counselors and social workers have the unique opportunity to instill hope and provide support that can lead to monumental changes in the lives of students through wrap around services; and

WHEREAS, the responsibility for keeping our community healthy is a shared responsibility and cannot be borne by public school alone, and requires support from the family, community, local, and state public safety agencies, and policymakers at the local, state, and federal levels.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Tucson Unified School District commits to include mental and emotional health support when discussing and addressing school safety and security; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Tucson Unified School District calls upon the State Legislature and the Governor to allocate additional funding toward more mental health support

in schools to lower the ratio of students to school counselors, students to social workers and students to school psychologists; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Tucson Unified School District shall remain committed to supporting students, staff, families, and community members by ensuring that it maintains supportive environments to nurture safety and well-being.

Adopted this 28th day of January, 2020.

Tucson Unified School District Governing Board

Kristel Ann Foster, President

Leila Counts, Clerk

Bruce Burke, Member

Adelita S. Grijalva, Member

Rachael Sedgwick, Member