

# TUCSON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARINGS ON “UNITARY STATUS”

September 1, 2004  
Pueblo High Magnet School

September 28, 2004  
Sahuaro High School



# We need your input.

TUSD has become “unitary”, the court may determine that it no longer needs to maintain jurisdiction over the pending Fisher / Mendoza desegregation lawsuit and may terminate the lawsuit.

## Some background ...



# Fisher / Mendoza Litigation: A Chronology



# FISHER / MENDOZA LITIGATION

Discrimination lawsuit filed by African American parents / students (Fisher).

Discrimination lawsuit filed by Mexican American parents / students (Mendoza).

Court joins the two cases together -  
– Fisher / Mendoza.



# LITIGATION CONTINUES ...

United States (Department of Justice) intervenes and becomes a party to the litigation.

Settlement negotiations begin.

In 1978, the U.S. District Court approves the Stipulation of Settlement negotiated by the parties and its desegregation plan.



# KEY POINTS OF DESEGREGATION PLAN

K-8 desegregation plan.

Student assignments.

Faculty assignments.

Black Studies program.

Pilot program for Spalding reading method



## KEY POINTS CONTINUE

Court approval is needed for new schools, renovations or additions to schools, boundary changes or other matters that would affect student assignment.

Annual reports by TUSD to the court.

Independent Citizens' Committee is established to review TUSD's compliance with the court order and to report to the Governing Board.



the court's jurisdiction is expanded to include high schools when the court denies USD's request to close Catalina High School.

# Unitary Status: Standards and Analysis



# Unitary Status Standards

Has the District eliminated the remnants of past officially sanctioned discrimination in the District to the extent practicable?

Has the Governing Board, in good faith, complied with the Stipulation of Settlement in Fisher-Mendoza?

Is judicial control over the District necessary to achieve the goals of the Stipulation of Settlement?



# Unitary Status Process

The district will conduct a fact intensive analysis of whether it can show that it has met the unitary status standards and will look at:

- The District's compliance with court orders;
- The elimination of the vestiges of segregation and;
- The good faith of the Governing Board.



This analysis is based on the Green factors:

- Student assignment
- Faculty assignment
- Transportation
- Facilities
- Extracurricular activities



# Results of Unitary Status Analysis

## Options:

- If the analysis shows that TUSD has met all of the standards for the Green factors, then TUSD will consider seeking unitary status.
- If the analysis shows that TUSD has met the standards for some but not all of the Green factors, TUSD will consider seeking partial unitary status and developing a plan for addressing any issues identified by the analysis with the goal of becoming unitary.
- If the analysis shows that TUSD has made progress, but has not met the standards for any of the Green factors, TUSD will develop a plan for addressing the issues identified by the analysis with the goal of becoming unitary.



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**YOUR INPUT MATTERS!**



THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
PARTICIPATION!

