

Superintendent's report and recognitions for June 9, 2015

ASBO Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting

I'm very proud to announce that TUSD has earned a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting Award given by The Association of School Business Officials International for Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

The award is given to school districts that have met or exceeded the association's high standards for financial reporting and accountability and speaks to all of the hard work our Chief Financial Officer Karla Soto and her team have been doing and to our commitment to financial accountability and transparency.

In a letter announcing the award, ASBO said TUSD practices transparency through publishing financial reports and statements and holding community presentations and forums. The organization also pointed to the Finance Department's website and the district's financial reports.

Itinerant teacher program:

--Looking for a select group of certified substitutes or certified teachers

--Itinerant teacher/subs will be assigned to high-need positions

--Itinerant teachers will be TUSD employees and will get benefits, retirement, etc.

--They will be guaranteed 180 days of employment per year.

-- We are able to offer these positions because of amendments to the Substitute Certification rules approved by the Arizona Department of Education:

- School districts may request an exemption from the Board rule which limits an individual who holds only a Substitute certificate from teaching in the same school more than 120 days per school year. An exemption from the 120 day limit shall not be granted to the same individual more than three times.
- The grade level of the Substitute certificate has been expanded from K-12 to PreK-12.
- To apply for the exemption, districts must verify the following:
 - The school district or charter school is requesting an exemption from the limit on teaching 120 days in the same school for the current school year for the substitute certificate holder indicated.
 - The position in which the substitute teacher has been placed has been continuously advertised on a statewide basis at a minimum of three sites with at least one being a higher education institution.
 - A highly qualified and employable candidate was not found

Help with teacher certification:

--Our professional development team will work with aspiring teachers who are having trouble passing the teacher certification exams.

--This is for people who have completed their coursework requirements but are having trouble with some aspect of testing

--Anyone who needs help can contact the professional development team.

Invitation to the White House

--I'm pleased to let you know that Tucson Unified has been invited to the White House for the national conversation on improving school discipline policies and practices.

--July 22nd at The White House

--Educational leaders from around the nation will participate

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Superintendent's Recognition

I would like to share with you the Silver HealthierUS School Challenge award that the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services has presented to Booth-Fickett K-8 Math and Science Magnet School.

The Healthier US School Challenge is a voluntary certification program sponsored by the USDA. The certification program recognizes schools' specific efforts towards school nutrition, healthy choices and physical activity.

Booth-Fickett is the fourth TUSD school to earn a HealthierUS recognition and is the first in our district to earn the Silver Award. A few of the activities developed in coordination with the students include:

- A mobile **Go- Breakfast** cart, placed where the students arrive on campus each day. Breakfast participation has increased by an average of 30%.
- Scheduled Wellness Week activities
- Periodic relay races, flash mob routines, a turkey trot
- Physical activity breaks are implemented throughout the day to refresh the body and mind.

What makes this award special is that the students actively participate with school faculty, nutrition and health professionals to develop what they would like to see at their school to improve overall wellness on the campus.

We have some of our TUSD Food Services, Health Services and Booth-Fickett folks here who helped achieve this award. If you'll please come on up, we can get a picture.

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I would like to thank a group of doctors and physical therapists for helping our student athletes by offering discounted sports physicals and giving the proceeds back to our schools.

Last month, teams from Athlon Physical Therapy and University of Arizona Sports Physicians donated their time and provided physicals to 303 students. The cost of the physicals was \$10 per student, and every dollar went back to the school that the students attended. As a result, TUSD's athletic programs received \$3,030.

The volunteers offered physicals to students from middle to high schools. If a student did not have the money to pay, they still were able to get a complete physical from some of the top doctors in the field of sports medicine free of charge.

I'd like to invite the physical therapists and doctors to come on up so we can thank you for providing our student athletes with this important service!

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Palo Verde Magnet High School Commercials

As part of the magnet marketing plan, we're highlighting some of our best schools that have room for additional students for the 15-16 school year. You'll begin to see these spot on KVOA this month: (Play video)