

Welcome Back!

As we plan for a new school year unlike any other we have seen in the past, the Business Services Department's would like to share with you some exciting news and a few updates to keep you informed. Thank you to our students, faculty, staff, and the community for your continued support through the current events that affect us all. Stay safe, healthy, and welcome to the 2020/2021 school year!



District Refunding Bonds

On August 13, 2020, the District sold \$36,660,000 in Taxable Refunding Bonds. Thirty-nine separate organizations wanted to purchase the bonds; the requests received were 10.6 times more than what we had available. The refunding reduces our debt service payments and saves our taxpayers \$3.2 million.

Tempe Union High School District also received an Aa1 rating from Moody's and AA/Stable rating from S&P Global. We are one of six districts that have an Aa1 rating from Moody's; this is the highest rating they give to districts in Arizona.

TUHSD is excited this opportunity came up and the savings it generates for our taxpayers. We very much appreciate the support of the entire TUHSD community.

Federal Assistance Funding

What Federal Assistance Funding is Tempe Union High School District eligible for and/or applied for during the COVID-19 pandemic?

- **Public Assistance for Presidentially Declared Disasters:** Direct grant application to FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) which allows Tempe Union to request reimbursement of up to 75% of eligible COVID-19 related PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) costs for staff, parents, and facilities. In our first FEMA grant application submission, the District applied for reimbursement of \$154,085.36 (75%) of the \$205,447.15 of eligible COVID-19 related PPE costs to date. The District plans to submit a second FEMA grant application for eligible COVID-19 related PPE reimbursement in October/November.
- **Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER):** Federal grant to be used towards the purchase of student laptops for distribution to the incoming 2020/2021 freshman class to assist with distance and online learning. The District purchased 3,900 student laptops. ESSER funded approximately 2000 of these laptops at a cost of \$1,057,139.15.
- **Enrollment Stability Grant (ESG):** Funds will be allocated to Tempe Union after the State calculates our 40th day Average Daily Membership (ADM). Tempe Union will receive a one-time formula grant award based upon the greater of 105% of our 2020/2021 40-day ADM or 98% of the 2019/2020 weighted ADM. The District will use these funds for permitted COVID-19 expenses incurred from March 1 - December 4, 2020. The District is in the process of applying for this grant; grant application due date is September 4, 2020. The final award is scheduled to be announced on or around November 11, 2020.

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Payroll Ponderings

Nutrition Nibbles



Non-Exempt Hourly-Paid Employees: Please remember that it is your responsibility to clock in and out and review and approve your hours in TimeClock Plus (TCP). Approving hours should be done at least weekly but no later than after your last shift for the week. This has always been an expected and required process and is an essential step that ensures you are paid for all hours worked.

REMEMBER: You are only paid for the hours reported. Therefore, you must enter a request for time off in TCP for any hours you are absent but scheduled to work. Missing hours on your paycheck will not be corrected until the following pay period. Thank you for being responsible and accountable for your time reporting. Your effort and commitment to this process will ensure you are paid properly and on time, every time.

AS WE REOPEN...

The Food and Nutrition Department is committed to meeting the nutritional needs of each and every student during the 2020/21 school year. The department has developed and will adhere to the following measures to ensure the overall health and safety of students and staff who rely on TUHSD's meal service. Food and Nutrition staff will follow safety guidelines set forth by the Arizona Department of Public Health.

Student Meals for On-Campus and Virtual Learning



- ❖ Provide contact-free meal service to protect students and employees
- ❖ Eliminate self-service stations and use individually packaged foods
- ❖ Encourage cashless transactions by emphasizing prepayment for meals
- ❖ Reinforce health and safety protocols with students and staff
- ❖ Offer Grab and Go Meals - Curbside
- ❖ Offer Daily Staff lunch specials

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Transportation Tidbits

COVID-19 Safety Protocols

ID's: ➔ Students will be authorized to board buses without ID's until further notice

Masks: ➔ Students are required to wear masks to board the bus ➔ Drivers will carry a limited supply of complimentary masks
➔ Special Ed students may not be required to wear a mask based on IEP

Student Seating: ➔ Students will be seated one per seat in a staggered pattern
➔ Students shall board the bus one at a time to allow for social distancing ➔ Bus will be loaded from back to front to minimize passing in the aisles

Temp Checks: ➔ All students are required to be temp checked prior to boarding ➔ Students exhibiting a temperature of 100 degrees or above cannot board the bus ➔ The driver will recheck the student after a short period ➔ If the student still has a high temp, the school and/or parent shall be contacted

Disinfecting: ➔ High touch points shall be wiped-down with disinfectant between runs
➔ Each bus will be sanitized at the end of each day



Questions? You can find Department and Contact Information listed on the Business Services Tab on the TUHSD Website or click on: [Business Services](#)