



# Florence Unified School District No. 1

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**Mr. Chris Knutsen, Superintendent**  
**Tony Jimenez, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services**  
**Adam Leckie, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Athletics**

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April 19, 2018

Dear Florence Unified Parents and Guardians,

There has been a great deal of media coverage and social media activity concerning the Arizona Educators United #RedforEd initiative. This initiative began with activities geared towards bringing attention to the issue of low public education funding in Arizona.

Many Florence Unified School District teachers and community members have lent their voices to this cause. Recently, you may have seen groups of staff assembling on public sidewalks near our schools before the school day began. These walk-in gatherings have been before school and did not have an impact on the regular school day.

We want to commend our FUSD teachers for the professional way they have handled themselves and for the respect they have shown our students and families. The before school activities have provided our teachers and staff an avenue to express themselves about the impact of the school funding issues in Arizona.

Per media reports and social media posts, the Arizona Educators United #RedforEd organizers have suggested a potential school walkout. We have been working with our district, school and teacher leadership, with hopes of finding alternatives that will support our teachers, but avoid disrupting the school day for students.

Should a teacher walkout occur, FUSD will make every effort to avoid a school closure. However, to ensure the safety of our students it may be necessary for the District to shut down all school operations. We ask that you consider an alternative plan for your children in the event that our schools are forced to close.

If we are unable to hold school, we will use all modes of communication to alert families to the closures including our parent alert system, emails, phone calls, district and school websites, and social media.

Please see page 2 of this letter for responses to some frequently asked questions.

Respectfully,

Chris Knutsen  
Superintendent

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