



TULSA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EQUITY CHARACTER EXCELLENCE TEAM JOY

March 28, 2018

Visit www.tauw.org for school shutdown resources for families.

Dear families,

As you know, Tulsa Public Schools is joining school districts from across the state to support the leadership of the Oklahoma Education Association and our own Tulsa Classroom Teachers Association in a legislative advocacy plan for restored funding to education and increased teacher and support staff salaries. That plan includes a state-wide teacher walk-out if our state legislature does not find a way to meaningfully increase teacher pay and funding to public education by Sunday, April 1.

I'm writing today because with less than a week left until the April 1 deadline, even with recent developments, I believe that it is very possible that our teachers will walk-out starting on Monday, April 2. When this walk-out takes place, there will be no classes and all schools in our district will be closed to the public. Schools will be closed indefinitely – this closure could last anywhere from a few days to a week or even more.

If you have not yet begun making plans for how your family will manage a school closure, I urge you to begin doing so now. Here are some important details that will help you determine your plan.

- **All schools in the district will be closed to the public** – students and families will not be able to access these buildings. Any school days affected by the shutdown will be made up at the end of the school year like snow days.
- Approximately 70 non-school sites will provide **breakfast and lunch free of charge** to students under age 18. Visit www.tulsaschools.org/schoolclosure to find a site near you.
- The **Tulsa Area United Way is coordinating family and student resources** for a closure, including childcare, meal-sites, and out-of-school learning opportunities. Visit www.tauw.org for more information.
- **Transportation services** will be available *only* to assist our **students taking classes at sites not affected by the closure** such as Tulsa Tech and Tulsa Community College.
- **Most district-run extracurricular programming, including junior varsity athletics, will be suspended.** Spring varsity-level teams and spring varsity-level activities are the only exceptions.
- **Graduations will be held as planned.** If needed, members of the class of 2018 will have opportunities to complete any outstanding credits during the summer.
- **Prom will be held as planned** as long as there is adequate supervision from parent and community member chaperones at these events. Please look for an email communication from your school's principal and updates on the district website.
- **Schools will be closed to after-school childcare, activities, programming, services and rentals except as described in this letter.** These school closures include, but are not limited to, afterschool childcare, student services, student lessons and activities, club activities and any use of the school

facilities by the community and vendors. Use of the schools on Saturdays and Sundays pursuant to facility use agreements will be allowed.

- **Plans for assessments are as follows:**

- **Oklahoma State Testing Program (OSTP)** for grades 3-8 and grade 11: If there is a walkout, we will make all efforts to provide students with state testing opportunities upon the re-opening of schools. If there is insufficient time to administer all state tests we, will prioritize testing for students in 3rd grade reading, 8th grade reading, and 11th grade science, as possible.
- **SAT for 11th graders:** The SAT assessment for 11th graders on Tuesday, April 10, 2018 will continue for our high school students. We plan to have our students test at their high school the morning of April 10. Students should plan to arrive by 8:20am for check-in at their high school with their student ID. **Please note the following exceptions:**
 - 11th grade students who are enrolled at Tulsa Learning Academy will test at the Tulsa Public Schools Education Service Center (3027 S. New Haven Ave.) and not at Promenade Mall.
 - Students testing with accommodations will receive individual communication regarding testing as it may occur over several days and outside of the April 10 testing date.

- **International Baccalaureate (IB) and Advanced Placement** testing will take place as scheduled on the date for each subject, although they may be administered at sites other than the student's home school. We will update families about this opportunity through email and the district website as we have more information.
- We will update the **MAP** (benchmark assessment) testing window as necessary.

We will continue to post information and updates at www.tulsaschools.org/schoolclosure - including confirmations that schools are closed because of the walkout. **As we do with inclement weather, if schools are closed, the announcement will be made no later than 5:30 a.m. on the closing day.** We will, however, endeavor to make those announcements the night prior to give families as much notice as possible to make arrangements for childcare. This information will be available on our website (www.tulsaschools.org), on social media, and through local news outlets.

Lastly, please remember that we can help prevent or shorten any walkout. We encourage you to contact your state legislators about the need to adequately fund education, which requires a substantial increase in teacher pay and education funding. You can find their contact information at www.oklegislature.gov. Thank you for your continued support of our amazing Tulsa teachers and the students we all serve and love.

Best,



Deborah A. Gist
Superintendent