



## THE RIGHT OF YOUTH TO ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

**A Resolution affirming the Governing Board's commitment to environmental sustainability, its support of responsible student activism, and the right of youth to call for action on climate change, and calling for State and Federal action on climate issues**

### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Flagstaff Unified School District Governing Board ("Governing Board") is responsible for the safety and well-being of all students, teachers, and staff; and

WHEREAS, an overwhelming majority of credentialed scientists, in the U.S. and abroad, support the finding that heat-trapping emissions we release into the atmosphere from burning fossil fuels is changing our climate; <sup>1</sup> and

WHEREAS, climate instability is a global challenge requiring bold, innovative, and sustainable solutions; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board values youth leadership, civic engagement, and input into decisions that impact their future; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board understands the importance of the practical application of knowledge and skills learned in the classroom to local, national, and international issues; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board is aware that the Flagstaff community has experienced the impact of climate change locally with increased drought and forest fires; and

WHEREAS, if left unaddressed, the consequences of climate change poses harm to Americans and people across the world, and threatens to saddle future generations with the costly burden of repairing infrastructure and resulting health, social, and economic impacts; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board recognizes that climate change is a youth issue, a generational justice and human rights issue, a social justice, and an equity issue; and

WHEREAS, the Flagstaff community is fortunate to have numerous resources for science and policy resources such as the Festival of Science, Scientists in the Classroom, and Northern Arizona University Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals <sup>2</sup>.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

- A. The Governing Board recognizes that District students may choose to participate in the International Climate Action event scheduled to occur on September 20, 2019. To support students while recognizing the need of the District to promote the health, welfare, and safety of the school community, the Governing Board has developed the Guidelines below, with the expectation that students participating in the event shall adhere to the same; and
- B. The Governing Board will expand its efforts to implement renewable energy, energy efficient heating, cooling, and transportation and reduce plastic and Styrofoam waste across the District; and
- C. The Governing Board supports climate change education in the District; and

- D. The Governing Board calls upon leaders at all levels to take swift and effective action on climate change to protect current and future students; and
- E. The Governing Board directs its Board Secretary to send copies of this Resolution to local, state, and national representatives, including Senator Martha McSally and Senator Kyrsten Sinema, Congressman Tom O'Halleran, Representative Bob Thorpe, Representative Walter Blackman, Senator Sylvia Allen, Governor Doug Ducey, Flagstaff Mayor Coral Evans, Coconino County Board of Supervisors Chair Lena Fowler, Coconino County Superintendent of Schools, Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction Kathy Hoffman, and United States Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos.

PASSED AND APPROVED: August 27, 2019

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Carol Haden, President  
Flagstaff Unified School District Governing Board

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Kim Branges, Executive Assistant/Governing Board Secretary  
Flagstaff Unified School District Governing Board

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<sup>1</sup> [Union of Concerned Scientists, https://www.ucsusa.org](https://www.ucsusa.org).

<sup>2</sup> [Flagstaff Festival of Science](#), [Scientists in the Classroom](#), [Northern Arizona University Environmental Outreach Program](#)

### Guidelines for Student Participation in Global Climate Action Day

In recognition that District students may choose to participate in the September 20, 2019 Global Climate Action event, the Governing Board establishes the following guidelines:

1. The District's focus shall remain on teaching and learning, while providing guidance that supports student and staff safety.
2. The Administration will identify campus locations to which students can be directed for the event.
3. Students are expected to be respectful of those who choose not to participate in the event.
4. The Administration may assign staff and provide law enforcement support if needed, to provide supervision and support during the event, but not with the intent to suppress protected student expression.
5. The District reasonably expects that during the event, students shall conduct themselves in an orderly manner and in conformity with the Student Code of Conduct, which includes but is not limited to having parent permission to be tardy to or absent from class.
6. Violations of the Student Code of Conduct will be handled in a compassionate manner, but in a manner consistent with the procedures and consequences set forth in the Student Code of Conduct.
7. The Administration will request that teachers refrain from giving tests or quizzes during the event.

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