



## Superintendent's Office

Dr. Paul Stanton, Superintendent

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April 24, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In an effort to continually communicate with our families, we want to provide you with a brief update about resources for families, a change in Grab and Go Meal Times, a change in packet pickup times, collecting personal items from school, field trip refunds and the new P-EBT program.

### Resources for Families

During these fluid times, our families, students and staff are first on our minds. We know everyone has been impacted in different ways and we are providing a few resources in each update. If you need assistance, please reach out to your child's teacher, school social worker, principal, or utilize some of the resources below. The Web site, [arizonatogether.org](http://arizonatogether.org), provides many resources for families including mental health, employment, financial assistance, community resources and options for Internet access. The Web site, [211arizona.org](http://211arizona.org) also provides resources for families including clothing, housing, health and dental, support groups and family services. Teen LifeLine is a resource for students who may need someone to reach out to. They can be reached at [www.teenlifeline.org](http://www.teenlifeline.org) or 602-248-8336. For parents who need emotional support, the National Parent Helpline is available at 1-855-427-2736. The WESD Social Services Department, including school social workers, are available through email or voicemail. Their contact information can be found on each school's website.

If you have any questions or are in need of resources, please email our Social Services Department at [socialservices@wesdschools.org](mailto:socialservices@wesdschools.org) or call 602-347-2636.

### Grab and Go Meal Program Time Change

In our first five weeks, WESD has served over 300,000 meals! We recently moved to pick up once a week, where students receive five days worth of food. Due to the rising temperatures, the once-a-week pickup will continue on Tuesdays, at an **earlier time – 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.**, beginning April 28 at the following 13 locations:

Acacia Elementary	3021 W. Evans Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85053
Cholla Middle School	3120 W. Cholla Street, Phoenix, AZ 85029
Desert View Elementary	8621 N. 3rd Street, Phoenix, AZ 85020
Maryland School	6503 N. 21st Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85015
Mountain View School	801 W. Peoria, Phoenix, AZ 85029

Governing Board: Tee Lambert, President • Bill Adams, Vice President  
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Ocotillo Elementary	3225 W. Ocotillo, Phoenix, AZ 85017
Orangewood School	7337 N. 19th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85021
Richard E. Miller Elementary	2021 W. Alice, Phoenix, AZ 85021
Roadrunner Elementary	7702 N. 39th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85051
Shaw Butte Elementary	12202 N. 21st Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85029
Sunnyslope School	245 E. Mountain View Road, Phoenix, AZ 85020
Sunset Elementary	4626 W. Mountain View Road, Glendale, AZ 85302
Washington Elementary	8033 N. 27th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85051

**If you have questions about the Grab and Go Meal Program, please email Nicole Augustine at [Nicole.augustine@wedschools.org](mailto:Nicole.augustine@wedschools.org) or call 602-896-5240.**

### **Packet Distribution Time Change**

Due to the rising temperatures, we will continue to provide packets each Thursday at a **new, earlier time, 9:00 to 10:30 a.m., beginning April 30** at each of our 32 schools. Please go to our WESD website at [www.wedschools.org/students](http://www.wedschools.org/students) for fun, virtual, challenging opportunities for all ages.

**If you have questions about packets, please email [wesdcommserv@wedschools.org](mailto:wesdcommserv@wedschools.org) or call 602-347-2600.**

### **Collecting Personal Items at School**

We understand that parents may want to pick up items that their child(ren) left at school before Spring break, but we are abiding with Governor Ducey’s stay-at-home order. Please watch for information after this order has been lifted for a procedure that will allow parents to retrieve items from their child’s school.

### **Field Trip Refunds**

We know there are families interested in receiving refunds for field trips, activities, or other fees for programs that were cancelled due to the closure. We want to be supportive of families with these requests, but this process will take time to manage.

In some cases, non-refundable fees were paid to the vendor that may not be available to refund. It takes time to receive funds from vendors for trips that are refundable, and this has delayed the ability for the District to issue refunds. We have received legal guidance that payments for which a tax credit receipt was issued are not refundable. Due to the complexity of these issues and potential volume of refund requests where possible, it could take months to complete this process. Thank you for your patience in this challenging time.

For questions related to field trip refunds, please email [WESDAccounting@wedschools.org](mailto:WESDAccounting@wedschools.org).



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### **P-EBT Card Information (Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer)**

Per the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, the Department of Economic Security (DES) will provide P-EBT benefits to those families with students enrolled in a school participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) whose families have lost access to free or reduced meals due to a school closure of five days or more.

Because the WESD participates in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), all of our students qualify for the benefit, including students enrolled in preschool and Head Start. The benefits will be retroactive to March 16, 2020, and are calculated based on the number of school days for which the child would have received assistance from school meal programs. Eligible families will receive \$69 for March, \$126 in April, and \$120 in May, **for each child**. Families that have been accessing meals from schools during the closure are still eligible for these benefits.

This benefit will be implemented in three phases:

**Phase 1** – Issue supplemental P-EBT benefits for eligible children already receiving SNAP. Funds will be added to their current account

**Phase 2** – Issue P-EBT benefits for eligible children NOT currently receiving SNAP using the file provided by Arizona Department of Education (ADE) that includes enrollment information from school district student information systems.

**Phase 3** – Provide an online form for families who may not have been captured on the file provided by ADE due to incomplete data elements. DES will then compare the information provided on the on-line form to confirm enrollment.

The benefit will be distributed to current SNAP participants in April. Cards to other eligible households will be sent out beginning in early May. DES will issue an advance letter to households introducing the P-EBT program, inform them of the P-EBT card that will be issued and what information they will need to set up a PIN for the card. A P-EBT card will be mailed to the guardian of record using best address hierarchy obtained from ADE. An educational pamphlet will be included with the P-EBT card informing the household how to access benefits. Care will be taken to rollup family units to avoid sending multiple P-EBT cards.

We will share more information, including a FAQ, as we know more. For more information, go to <https://des.az.gov/p-ebt>.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time. If you have any questions, please email [wesdcommserv@wesdschools.org](mailto:wesdcommserv@wesdschools.org) or call 602-347-2600. We are here to help you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Paul Stanton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "D" and "S".

Dr. Paul Stanton  
Superintendent