



**Arizona Department of Education
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction Diane M. Douglas**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Superintendent Diane Douglas Visits TUSD, Southern Arizona Schools

(Phoenix, AZ – Feb. 20, 2015) – Today Superintendent of Public Instruction Diane Douglas is visiting classrooms at Colonel Smith Middle School in Fort Huachuca and Valley View Elementary School in Hereford, Arizona.

On Thursday, Douglas traveled to Tucson to personally meet with the Superintendent of the Tucson Unified School District (TUSD). The Superintendent visited classes at Poston Butte High School in Florence and Rincon High School in Tucson.

This is the second meeting between Douglas and TUSD Superintendent H.T. Sanchez. In addition to meeting, Douglas and Sanchez visited a classroom. Douglas originally met with Sanchez in early January after the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) found TUSD in violation of ARS §15-112. At that time, both leaders said they considered correction of the violation a high priority.

“I continue to be encouraged that Superintendent Sanchez is working with the state to bring coursework into compliance with the law,” said Superintendent Douglas. “It was very valuable for both of us to make an unannounced visit together to monitor the progress of these changes in one of the classrooms. I hope we can continue our cooperation, bring the coursework into legal compliance, and build a strong and lasting relationship with TUSD.”

ADE gave the school district a 60-day period to correct the violation, which ends on March 4, 2015. TUSD risks losing 10 percent of its monthly apportionment of state aid unless the violation is corrected. The Superintendent supports inclusion of all ethnic groups in the design of standards, curriculum and instruction for Arizona all students.

“Arizona students should know the rich diversity of all ethnic groups,” Douglas said. She has created a Latino Education Advisory Committee, which will conduct its initial meeting March 3, 2015. All committee meetings will be open to the public. The advisory committee’s work will focus on reducing and removing barriers the Latino community faces and on ways to include all ethnicities as an integral part of all appropriate instruction.

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