



**Arizona Department of Education
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sally Stewart
602-542-5072
Sally.Stewart@azed.gov

**SUPERINTENDENT HUPPENTHAL FINDS
TUCSON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NONCOMPLIANT**

PHOENIX, Ariz., Jan. 2, 2015 – The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) today sent a notice of noncompliance to the Tucson Unified School District stating that one or more of its classes are in violation of A.R.S. §15-112. If the District is not in compliance with A.R.S. § 15-112 by March 4, 2015, ADE will determine whether to withhold 10 percent of the monthly apportionment of state aid that would otherwise be due to the district until the violations are corrected.

Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal released the following statement today on his finding that the Tucson Unified School District (TUSD) is in violation of A.R.S. § 15-112:

“During my tenure as Superintendent, I have been closely monitoring the status of the Tucson Unified School District’s culturally relevant curricula to ensure that all TUSD students, regardless of their race or ethnic background, have access to a high quality education.

“After a thorough review of materials from TUSD’s culturally relevant courses, I find that the district has failed to meet several provisions of the 2012 Settlement Agreement settlement and is once again in clear violation of A.R.S. §15-112. Furthermore, I am deeply concerned by the fact that the noncompliance appears to extend beyond classes taught from the Mexican American perspective and now also includes classes taught from the African American perspective.

“ADE staff has worked tirelessly to provide guidance and feedback as quickly as possible throughout the process so that district officials would have the resources needed to keep all culturally relevant courses in compliance with the law. This process has been made challenging by the fact that the district has failed to fully respond to several requests for information and has been inconsistent in its application of materials that have been provided.

“In issuing this finding before classes resume, I am hopeful that the district will take immediate action to comply with the law.”

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