

Dear Mesa Public Schools parents and staff,

As part of the #RedforEd movement and the demand for increased funding for public schools, there is the potential for Arizona teachers to walk out in the near future.

The outcome of a statewide teacher vote to decide whether a walkout occurs is expected to be announced sometime after 8 p.m. this evening. I encourage you to monitor media outlets and social media tonight for the most up-to-date information.

As of this letter, we do not know if, when or how long Arizona teachers may walk out. If the decision is made to walk out, we do not anticipate it happening tomorrow, Friday, April 20. Teacher leadership has continually assured the district that we will be given advance notice of the date the walkout would begin.

Based on numerous planning meetings and input from our district leaders, if Mesa teachers participate in the walkout, district schools will close for the duration of the walkout. This difficult decision is based on ensuring the safety of our students. I know that many of you have questions about the specifics associated with a school closure. If a walkout is announced, the district will immediately communicate our detailed plans for closing schools.

We will use all of the communication tools we have available to inform our families and staff every step of the way. These channels include our notification system (SchoolMessenger), district Facebook and Twitter ([@mpsaz](#)) and the district website ([mpsaz.org](#)).

Thank you for your support and understanding as we navigate these uncharted waters together.

Sincerely,

Michael B. Cowan, Ed.D.
Superintendent