

How Parent and Community Groups Can Support SUSD During Challenging Economic Times

***** Frequently Asked Questions *****

We need to be careful as a district to ensure equity between our schools. This is why SUSD prohibits the use of gift or tax credit monies for certified or administrative staff. As an example, the total cost to fund a teaching position is \$60,000. This takes into account all of the benefits, including medical insurance. When one school can afford to purchase teachers or administrative staff and another school cannot, we create inequity. In limited cases, we do allow gift monies to be used for certain classified like office help and school aides.

A parent group should never attempt to contract with someone as an individual to work in our schools. This places the liability for that employee on the parents rather than the district. If that employee is injured or causes some kind of harm, the parents – not the District – would be liable for damages. In addition, the group/persons who employed the individual would be responsible for paying taxes, reporting wages, unemployment, etc.

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What can parents and community organizations do during this challenging economic time?

- Donate funds as gift money. The donation can specify a purpose of your choosing.
- Make tax credit donations. The donation can specify a purpose as approved by state statute. These purposes are listed on the District Web site.
- Volunteer time. The District has a large number of volunteers and a screening and approval process. Please contact Elizabeth Paolinelli-Ruiz, for more information: EPaolinelli-Ruiz@susd.org or 480-484-6277.
- Continue to send the message to the State Legislature about fully supporting the Scottsdale Unified School District with funding.

How can gift funds be used to support SUSD employees?

- Provide professional development for teachers.
- Provide paid time for teachers to work beyond the regular contract.
- Provide substitutes.
- Provide classified support like duty aides and instructional assistants (these are the few positions that could be funded from gift monies).

How can tax credit funds be used?

- Tax credit monies are restricted to paying for extra-curricular activities. This means anything outside the regular school day like after-school tutoring, fine arts, athletics, field trips, etc. You can make a donation via the District Web site at www.susd.org.