



WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

(Extending Closure of all Schools on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation for the Remainder of the 2019-2020 Academic School Year)

WHEREAS, The Constitution also provides, at Article IV, Section 1(a) that the Council shall exercise the power “To represent the Tribe and act in all matters that concern the welfare of the Tribe, and to make decisions not inconsistent with or contrary to this constitution”; and

WHEREAS, Worldwide, the COVID-19 pandemic has spread to over 900,000 people, and is responsible for over 45,000 deaths; and

WHEREAS, The United States has become the epicenter of new active cases, and Arizona has gone from 43 to 663 cases in less than two weeks, while testing and treatment infrastructure continues to lag; and

WHEREAS, On Monday, March 30, in response to this urgent public health crisis and revised federal guidelines urging social distancing until, at least, April 30th, the State of Arizona has determined it necessary to close all public and charter schools until the end of the 2019-2020 school year; and

WHEREAS, In consideration of the Tribe’s own recent actions to promote and enforce social distancing and quarantine to stop the spread of COVID-19 on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (“Reservation”), and cognizant of the risks posed to children, families, and the elderly by premature resumption of classes, the Council now finds that extending school closure on the Reservation, including Tribally-run schools, until the end of the 2019-2020 academic school year is in the best interests of the Tribe and its members.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the closure of all schools on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation shall continue until the end of the 2019-2020 academic school year, as was constituted by each respective school’s academic calendar, including the BIE and Tribally-run schools of Theodore Roosevelt School, Dischii’bikoh Community School, and John F. Kennedy Day School, allowing for each respective school to determine distance learning options, if available.

Resolution No. 04-2020-74

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event that this Resolution conflicts with a prior Resolution or Policy, this Resolution shall supersede and govern over the conflicting subject matter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Chairwoman, or in her absence, the Vice-Chairman, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

The foregoing resolution was on **APRIL 2, 2020** duly adopted by a vote of **NINE** for, **ZERO** against, and **ZERO** abstentions by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it under the enumerated powers listed in Article IV, Section 1 of the WMAT Constitution, so ratified on September 30, 1993, and federally recognized pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).

			
Gwendena Lee-Gatewood, Chairwoman	Date	Doreen T. Numkena, Tribal Secretary	Date