



Window Rock Unified School District No. 8

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December 5th, 2025
Arizona State Board of Education
1535 W. Jefferson Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: Appeal and Request for Stay of Sanctions – Window Rock Unified School District

Dear Members of the Arizona State Board of Education,

I respectfully submit this formal appeal on behalf of Window Rock Unified School District (WRUSD) and request a stay of any sanctions currently under consideration. This request is made considering the significant changes in district leadership and the corrective actions already underway to address the audit findings recently issued to the district.

The audit findings in question stem primarily from the malfeasance and failure to follow required procedures and protocols by the former Superintendent and former Business Manager of WRUSD. As the Board is aware, both individuals have since resigned from their positions and no longer represent or influence the operations of the district. Their actions do not reflect the commitment, transparency, or integrity of our current administrative team.

Since assuming the role of Superintendent, I have made it my highest priority to restore trust, establish accountability, and ensure full compliance with state reporting, financial management expectations, and internal control standards. I am working closely with our newly appointed Business Manager, who is highly regarded, familiar with WRUSD's operations, and has a strong professional reputation for ethical practice and fiscal management.

Together, we have already begun implementing targeted corrective actions to resolve each audit finding. These actions include, but are not limited to:

- Reestablishing proper internal controls and oversight procedures
- Ensuring all reporting requirements are met accurately and on time
- Conducting internal reviews of procurement, expenditures, and documentation
- Training administrative and site-level personnel on compliance expectations

These measures reflect not only our commitment to immediate correction, but also our long-term dedication to improving the operational integrity of the district.

Imposing sanctions at this time—while unrelated to the current leadership and while corrective work is actively progressing—would adversely impact on our students, staff, and community, despite the fact that the individuals responsible are no longer part of WRUSD. Granting a stay of sanctions will enable the new leadership team to fully implement corrective actions without disrupting educational services or diverting critical resources away from student needs.

Yvonne Kee-Billison
President

Dr. Jacquelyne Wauneka
Board Clerk

Dr. Shayla Yellowhair
Board Member

Patrick Lynch
Board Member

Stephanie Calabazza
Board Member

