



April 28, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

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I am writing to express my support for the RESTART S.M.A.R.T proposal for reopening Arizona schools following the COVID-19 closures.

All of us working with youth and with experience in youth development know that this pandemic, and related closures of schools and youth agencies, has had, and will continue to have a negative impact on our youth and their families. As a result, it is critical that we enter back into serving youth with a plan to address the resulting trauma and focus on increased and integrated awareness, assessment, and support of students' social-emotional learning (SEL).

RESTART S.M.A.R.T. recognizes and addresses these issues. As a parent and a professional in the youth-development field I know it is critical to invest the time and resources now so we are not caught flat-footed when we re-open our schools and youth programs. We need to come together as a community to make sure all of our students are given the best possible chance at success. Their emotional well-being and the continuing growth of our state requires it.

I urge educators and policy makers to take this proposal under serious consideration and allow us to work together to create a better environment for our youth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney C. Sullivan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Courtney" being the most prominent.

Courtney C. Sullivan, MBA

Executive Director