

**TEMPE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 213  
OF MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA**

**RESOLUTION RE: FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)  
AWARENESS & COMPLETION**

**WHEREAS**, obtaining a postsecondary degree is linked to increased employment opportunities, higher income, better health, and increased community involvement; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the best predictors of postsecondary enrollment is the completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); and

**WHEREAS**, Arizona currently ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in FAFSA completion, where the Arizona high school class of 2022 left over \$100 million, and nationally, left an estimated \$3.58 billion on the table in the form of unclaimed Pell Grant funds; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 45% of low-income students do not complete the FAFSA; and

**WHEREAS**, students who complete the FAFSA are 87% more likely to attend and afford post-secondary education; and

**WHEREAS**, FAFSA completion is essential for federal, state, and institutional financial aid awards and scholarship consideration; and

**WHEREAS**, individuals with a bachelor's degree earn 66 percent more than those with only a high school diploma; and

**WHEREAS**, the latest revised FAFSA form will require additional information and awareness for students and families; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tempe Union High School District Governing Board ("Board") has set the increase in the number of students completing the FAFSA by 10% as one of the 2023-2024 District goals.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Governing Board of the Tempe Union High School District No. 213 of Maricopa County is committed to supporting FAFSA awareness for students in middle school through high school.

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board supports and encourages all eligible high school seniors to complete the FAFSA and is committed to working in partnership with education stakeholders to improve economic mobility and better health outcomes by promoting the Arizona Promise Program, local promise initiatives, and statewide FAFSA completion resources such as Ask Benji Chatbot, FAFSA Campaign, FAFSA Dashboard, FAFSA Hotline, College Ready AZ, etc.

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board encourages students, staff, and community members to raise awareness about the importance of FAFSA completion through various avenues and activities.

**THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Acting Superintendent is hereby directed to send a copy of this resolution to all Tempe Union High School District No. 213 staff within 72 hours of adoption.

Adopted by the Governing Board of the Tempe Union High School District No. 213 of Maricopa County on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2024

TEMPE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 213

SIGNED:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Armando Montero', is written over a horizontal line.

Armando Montero, President