



# WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

## A Sovereign Tribal Nation

### **(Authorizing Reservation Schools to Utilize COVID-19 Surveillance State Testing Program and Authorizing Johns Hopkins to Expand its Safe Schools Program into Early Childhood Education and Daycare Settings)**

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- WHEREAS,** The Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe (“Tribe”) of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation provides, at Article IV, Section 1(a) that the Tribal Council (“Council”) shall exercise the power, “To represent the Tribe and act in all matters that concern the welfare of the Tribe...”; and
- WHEREAS,** On December 8, 2020, via Resolution No. 12-2020-298 the Council authorized Johns Hopkins Centers for American Indian Health Research (“JHU”) to conduct Project Safe Schools (the “Program”) in certain schools on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (“Reservation”),
- WHEREAS,** The Program is designed to develop and implement safe reopening and operation protocols, and includes testing in school settings; and
- WHEREAS,** Subsequently, via Resolution No. 05-2021-094, the Council authorized the expansion of the Program into the remainder of K-12 Reservation schools; and
- WHEREAS,** The State of Arizona’s Department of Health Services is offering free pooled COVID-19 screening testing in all schools located within the state, including BIE, contract and Tribally-operated schools; and
- WHEREAS,** The pooled screening testing program is essentially identical to that already offered by Project Safe Schools, and will continued to be administered with assistance from JHU, but will be funded by the State; and
- WHEREAS,** Receipt of State funding will allow the sustainability of testing in WMAT K-12 Reservation schools and allow JHU to use remaining funding it currently has to support expansion of the Program to early childhood education and daycare settings as well as to support testing for youth athletic programs; and
- WHEREAS,** To participate in the State’s pooled COVID-19 screening testing, the Tribe needs to indicate their permission that schools can participate in this program to the Arizona Department of Health Services; and

***Resolution No. 11-2021-239***

**WHEREAS**, JHU, this day, requests that the Council authorize the Reservation schools to participate in the state program, and approve expansion of Project Safe Schools into early childhood education and daycare settings and to support youth athletic programs; and

**WHEREAS**, Council finds that approving JHU's request will help to ensure the safety of Reservation students and 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 all Reservation schools are hereby authorized to participate in its pooled COVID-19 screening testing provided by the Arizona Department of Health Services.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that JHU is hereby authorized to utilize those funds saved by school participation in the State program to expand Project Safe Schools into early childhood education and daycare settings and to support youth athletic programs.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event this Resolution directly conflicts with the Tribal Constitution, Tribal Ordinances, or any material facts concerning the issues presented are later found to be false, this Resolution shall be deemed null and void and have no legal effect.

**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 **NOVEMBER 10, 2021** duly adopted by a vote of **TEN** 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

11.17.21  
Date

  
Doreen T. Numkena, Tribal Secretary

11-17-2021  
Date