

RESOLUTION No. 23-2024-2025
TAHOE TRUCKEE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION

**A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE LOCAL IMPACTS ON FOREST HEALTH AND WILDFIRE
MITIGATION THAT WILL RESULT FROM FEDERAL FUNDING AND STAFFING CUTS TO OUR
PUBLIC LANDS**

WHEREAS, Tahoe Truckee Unified School District is located in the foothills and High Sierra regions of the Sierra Nevada in California;

WHEREAS, Wildfires in California have grown in size, duration, and destructiveness because increasing impacts of periods of extreme rain and extreme droughts have caused accumulation of fuels in our forests, the majority of which are owned and managed by the federal government. Several of the most costly fires have occurred in areas that, like Tahoe Truckee Unified School District, are located in the wildland urban interface;

WHEREAS, proactively maintaining the health of our National Forests through fuel reduction projects is essential to mitigate the risk of catastrophic fire in our school district communities;

WHEREAS, Recent actions to reduce federal staffing levels will have a catastrophic impact on our federally owned public lands and adjacent communities. An estimated 10% or more of staff positions in Tahoe National Forest have been eliminated and contracts between the U.S. Forest Service and third-party contractors to complete fire mitigation projects have also been canceled or paused, significantly reducing fire mitigation efforts on U.S. Forest Service lands. These layoffs and frozen positions include emergency response teams and wildfire mitigation—both of which are vital to keeping people safe on our public lands and in our adjacent communities;

WHEREAS, A reduction in funding for public lands will result in:

- Fewer personnel to monitor for wildfires;
- Fewer personnel trained and ready to respond to wildfires;
- Fewer personnel to ensure campground fires are appropriately extinguished;
- Fewer personnel to gather the on-the-ground data that informs wildfire modeling;
- Fewer personnel to mount a prompt response to a wildfire that breaks out;
- Fewer resources to complete fuels reduction projects on public lands

WHEREAS, This greater wildfire risk for the school district communities increases the potential for missed school days for Tahoe Truckee Unified School District students. The necessity to cancel school may arise due to a multitude of wildfire-related factors, including:

- **Deteriorating air quality:** Wildfire smoke can cause air quality to plummet to unhealthy levels, posing a significant health risk to students and staff, particularly those with respiratory issues.
- **Active and Uncontrolled Wildfires:** The presence of active and uncontrolled wildfires in close proximity to schools can directly threaten the safety of students and staff, necessitating school closures.
- **Mandatory Evacuations:** In the event of a wildfire emergency, mandatory evacuation orders may be issued for areas within the school district, forcing schools to close and disrupting the educational process.

- **Power Outages:** Wildfires can also cause power outages, which can impact school operations and create unsafe conditions for students and staff.
- **Road Closures and Transportation Disruptions:** Wildfires can lead to road closures and transportation disruptions, making it difficult or impossible for students and staff to travel to and from school.
- **Limited Water Availability:** In some cases, wildfires can also impact water availability, which can affect school operations and sanitation.
- **Stress and Trauma:** Wildfires can also cause significant stress and trauma for students, staff, and families, which can impact learning and well-being.

WHEREAS, The potential for these and other wildfire-related disruptions underscores the critical need for proactive measures to mitigate wildfire risks and ensure the continuity of education for Tahoe Truckee Unified School District students. Tahoe Truckee Unified School District is committed to supporting all students in reaching their potential and strives to provide the full 180 school days each school year. Learning loss due to missed school days is a complex issue that can significantly impact students' academic progress and overall development. The negative effects of missed school days can be difficult to reverse and can have long-lasting consequences, potentially affecting students' future educational and career opportunities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

Tahoe Truckee Unified School District opposes the significant, catastrophic impacts to forest health and wildfire mitigation that will result from federal funding and staffing cuts to the United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Army Corps of Engineers. We implore our Federal representatives to support the restoration of Federal funding and staffing to these agencies.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Education of the Tahoe Truckee Unified School District at a regular meeting held on March 19, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

DATED: _____

SIGNED: _____

Cris Hennessey
Clerk to the Board of Education

I, Kerstin Kramer, Secretary of the Board of Education, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the Tahoe Truckee Unified School District at the regular meeting on March 19, 2025, which resolution is on file in the office of said Board.

DATED: _____

ATTEST: _____

Kerstin Kramer
Superintendent Chief Learning Officer