



# STEPPING STONES ACADEMY

35812 N. 7TH ST.  
PHOENIX, AZ 85086

PHONE 623-465-4910  
FAX 623-587-8514

[WWW.STEPPINGSTONESACADEMY.ORG](http://WWW.STEPPINGSTONESACADEMY.ORG)

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August, 2020

Dear Stepping Stones Academy Families:

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! This year may be starting different than previous years but the high amount of excitement and enthusiasm remains the same as previous years! Within this letter we are providing you the following information in accordance with Governor Ducey's Executive Order 2020-51 issued on July 23, 2020. Please carefully read the following information below regarding the 2020-21 school year and let us know about questions.

**Distance Learning Plan:** Our Distance Learning Plan can be found on Stepping Stones Academy's website available at [www.steppingstonesacademy.org](http://www.steppingstonesacademy.org).

**Mitigation Plan:** Our Mitigation Plan to address measures to combat the spread of COVID-19 can be found on Stepping Stones Academy's website at [www.steppingstonesacademy.org](http://www.steppingstonesacademy.org).

**School Calendar:** Distance learning begins on August 4, 2020, the first date of Stepping Stones Academy's instructional calendar submitted to Arizona Department of Education. Attached to this notice is a current copy of the School's calendar for the 2020-21 school year. Pending guidance from the Arizona Department of Health Services, we are currently anticipating beginning in-person, teacher-led classroom instruction on August 17, 2020. This date is only an estimate and may be revised by Stepping Stones Academy at any time.

**Attendance Requirements:** Your child will need to participate in Stepping Stones Academy's distance learning in order to be counted as present and attending. Stepping Stones Academy's learning plan requires students to sign in for the scheduled class times. Please note that state law (A.R.S. § 15-802) requires:

\*Every child between six and sixteen years of age must attend a school and be provided instruction in at least the subjects of reading, grammar, mathematics, social studies and science.

\*The child's parent or guardian must enroll the child in a school and ensure the child attends the school for the full time that school is in session. Stepping Stones Academy is currently anticipating conducting 180-days of instruction during the 2020-21 school year (see attached school calendar).

\*Certain exceptions apply to these attendance requirements, such as medical necessity. If you believe your child qualifies for such an exception, please contact Stepping Stones Academy.

**Free On-Site Learning Opportunities and Support Services:** Beginning on August 17, 2020, we will begin offering free on-site learning opportunities and support services for students who need a place to go during the school day.

\*Please be advised that free on-site learning opportunities and support services **are not** teacher-led classroom instruction. However, free on-site learning opportunities and support services will include in-person support services such as student supervision and strategic support for students in need during standard school hours, and may include teacher-led or paraprofessional support for students engaging in distance learning instruction.

\*If you believe your child needs a place to go during the day, please contact Ms. Dedre Stewart-Alliger, principal, at 623-465-4910 or [ddsa@ssa.school](mailto:ddsa@ssa.school) to discuss whether your child qualifies for this service.

\*Please be advised that free on-site learning opportunities and support services may be suspended or terminated if Stepping Stones Academy or the Arizona Department of Health Services advises closing the premises for public health reasons or in the best interests of the staff and students.

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**WHERE CHARACTER COUNTS AND LEADERSHIP HAPPENS!**



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To learn more about our free-onsite learning opportunities and support services, please visit the Stepping Stones Academy's website at [www.steppingstonesacademy.org](http://www.steppingstonesacademy.org). The details of these services may be modified based on additional guidance from ADE. Updates will be posted on Stepping Stones Academy's website.

If you have any questions or concerns about the information in this letter or if you need additional assistance, please contact Ms. Dedre Stewart-Alliger, principal, at 623-465-4910 or [ddsa@ssa.school](mailto:ddsa@ssa.school). The information contained in this letter may change as the situation changes, and in accordance with any applicable law, regulation, order, or Governing Board policy. Please continue to regularly review the websites listed below for important updates.

Thank you,  
Ms. Stewart-Alliger

### **Important Websites**

- Arizona Revised Statute § 15-802, available at: <https://www.azleg.gov/ars/15/00802.htm>
- Governor Ducey's Executive Order 2020-51, available at: <https://azgovernor.gov/executive-orders>

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