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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

Roy and Josie Fisher, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

United States of America,

Plaintiff-Intervenor,

v.

Anita Lohr, et al.,

Defendants,

and

Sidney L. Sutton, et al.,

Defendants-Intervenors,

CV 74-90 TUC DCB  
(Lead Case)

Maria Mendoza, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

United States of America,

Plaintiff-Intervenor,

v.

Tucson Unified School District No. One, et al.,

Defendants.

CV 74-204 TUC DCB  
(Consolidated Case)

1                                   **SPECIAL MASTER’S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION**  
2                                   **REGARDING WAKEFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL**

3                   **Overview**

4                   The District has proposed to reopen Wakefield Middle School after having closed it a few  
5 years ago. The District’s rationale is that there is substantial growth in the portion of the District  
6 in which Wakefield is located and that it could, in partnership with the University of Arizona,  
7 develop an innovative initiative to attract and retain middle school teachers, especially teachers of  
8 color.

9  
10                  Wakefield will be staffed by student teachers enrolled at the University of Arizona and  
11 supervising certified TUSD teachers tentatively called “master teachers.” The initial plan of the  
12 University and the District is to provide each student teacher with a certified teacher mentor who  
13 will be responsible for the classes being taught. In addition, a university staff member will  
14 oversee the training that student teachers will be receiving. All of this means that the students in  
15 the school will have an extraordinary ratio of teachers to students and the students should benefit  
16 therefrom. The District’s motivation, in addition to meeting the needs for additional space in the  
17 District’s middle schools, is to strengthen the training of middle school teachers and retain those  
18 teacher candidates being trained in the District once they are certified. (Teacher turnover is high  
19 in middle schools throughout the country). This model is common in some European countries  
20 and in Japan and versions of it are be implemented in some districts in the United States.<sup>1</sup> The  
21 Special Master believes that the District’s interest in alternative models of teacher training augurs  
22 well for rethinking current staffing practices because there is every reason to believe that the  
23 teacher shortage will persist and could be remedied by differentiated staffing in which highly  
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26                  <sup>1</sup> In Japan, there are usually two or three teachers being trained in the same classroom. The reason  
27 for this is that Japanese educators place considerable emphasis on the importance of collaboration and  
28 believe that beginning teachers will learn not only from mentors but from constructive and formative  
analyses of the work of other beginning teachers.

1 trained teachers oversee the work of their peers and provide job-embedded professional  
2 development.

3 **Recommendation**

4           The Special Master recommends that the Court approve the District's proposal with the  
5 following stipulations:  
6

- 7           1.       The curriculum in the school is essentially the District's middle school curriculum  
8 though the school may offer more advanced electives.
- 9           2.       All students applying under open enrollment provisions will have an equal  
10 opportunity to attend the school subject to lottery provisions in the event the school is  
11 oversubscribed.
- 12           3.       In all cases where the teachers in training are in charge of the classroom, the  
13 teachers in training will be supervised directly by certified "master teachers."  
14

15           The Special Master has been assured by the District that it has no objections to the  
16 stipulations and that it has already planned to implement these provisions.

17    Respectfully submitted,

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19    \_\_\_\_\_  
  /s/  
  Willis D. Hawley  
  Special Master

20 Dated: December 18, 2019

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on December 18, 2019, I electronically submitted the foregoing via the CM/ECF Electronic Notification System and transmittal of a Notice of Electronic Filing provided to all parties that have filed a notice of appearance in the District Court Case.

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Andrew H. Marks for  
Dr. Willis D. Hawley,  
Special Master

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