



Arizona State Board of Education
1700 W. Washington Street Executive Tower, Suite 300
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
Phone: (602) 542-5057
Website: azsbe.az.gov



January 25, 2021

The Board held its first meeting of the year on January 25th. Below are highlights from the Meeting.

The Board reelected President Narducci and Vice President Corr as presiding officers in 2021. President Narducci thanked the Board for the vote of confidence and expressed appreciation for the other Board members and the opportunity to work with the field and students.

Reports

The Board received three reports at the January Meeting:

1. Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) Program: ADE presented information on the ESA Program. The report included an update on the implementation of several programmatic changes and provided data on the Program.
2. Distance Learning Plans: ADE presented a follow-up report on schools' Distance Learning Plans, which were submitted last year to comply with the Governor's Executive Order. ADE provided observations, promising practices and potential innovations regarding attendance, benchmark assessments, how schools are meeting students' social/emotional needs and how schools are serving English learners and students with disabilities.
3. Educator Discipline: Board staff provided its annual report on educator discipline cases adjudicated by the Board. Discipline resulting from assaultive behavior continues to rise. As with previous years however, cases involving some form of sexual misconduct represented the highest number of cases (39%) in 2020.

All of the reports can be reviewed with the [meeting's materials](#).

Rulemaking Update

Below is a brief summary of Board rules in the process. Public comments are always welcome at inbox@azsbe.az.gov.

- Honorary High School Diploma: Statute allows veterans of the World Wars, Korea and Vietnam to receive an honorary high school diploma from an Arizona public school. The Arizona Department of Veteran's Services and the Arizona Department of Education's Adult Education unit has worked to increase veterans' and schools' awareness of the option. The rule is antiquated and not reflective of current statute. The Board received an update on the rulemaking process to align administrative code

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with statutory requirements. The Board adopted this rule at the January 25, 2021 meeting. The rule becomes effective immediately.

- Induction Program Standards for New Teachers: Voters approved Proposition 208 in the November 2020 General Election. The proposition provides funds to schools to provide mentoring and retention programming and requires the Board adopt the form and format of the programming. To comply with this requirement, the Board opened rulemaking procedures on R7-2-602.01 to establish requirements for the programming and the process for adopting. Board members sought changes to the rule to allow schools that have successful induction programs to continue those programs. The Board may adopt as soon as the February 22, 2021 meeting.
- SPED Endorsement for Visually or Hearing Impaired: The Board has a rule open to allow general education teachers to more seamlessly transition to teaching visually impaired or hearing impaired students. The endorsement is modelled after an endorsement adopted earlier this year. The Board has engaged in more stakeholder discussions and plans to bring the rule back for consideration as soon as the February meeting.

2021 Meeting Schedule

The Board's 2021 meeting schedule is set and provided on the Board's [homepage](#). The next Board meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2021.

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