



## Arizona State Board of Education

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



**October 28, 2019**

Below are highlights of the Board’s meeting on October 28, 2019.

### **2018-2019 A-F Accountability Cut Scores**

Cut scores for the 2018-2019 A-F Accountability System were set. Cut scores represent the percentage earned required to earn an A, B, C or D. For the K-8 and 9-12 models, the adopted cut scores are the same as the past two school years. This is the first year for alternative school letter grades in the new accountability system and cut scores for these schools were set using standard deviation.

Model	A	B	C	D	F
K-8	84.67 – 100	72.39 – 84.66	60.11 – 72.38	47.83 – 60.1	0 – 47.82
9-12	83.83 – 100	70.02 – 83.82	56.21 – 70.01	42.4 – 56.2	0 – 42.39
Alternative	79.03 – 100	68.14 – 79.02	57.25 – 68.13	46.36 – 57.24	0 – 46.35

A.R.S. 15-241.02 (D) requires schools that receive three consecutive D’s to be assigned a letter grade of F unless an appeal is granted. As the timeline below outlines, these schools will be relabeled as an F on November 18<sup>th</sup>, unless the school files an appeal. In addition to the standard appealable factors, schools subject to this statute may also appeal to retain a letter grade of D if the school demonstrates academic growth and provides evidence of taking the actions outlined in the school improvement Integrated Action Plan.

### **A-F Timeline**

- November 1: Deadline for release of letter grades to schools and the public
- November 1 – November 15: Appeals window is opened
- November 18:
  - Updated A-F letter grades are posted.
  - Schools that filed a valid appeal will be labeled “UR” for “Under Review”.
  - Pursuant to statute, schools that were assigned a letter grade of D for the third consecutive year will be labeled as an F unless an appeal is filed (A.R.S. 15-241.02 (D))
- December 9, 10 and 11: Appeals committee meets and makes recommendations
- December 13: Board approves, rejects, or modifies the recommendations. Updated A-F letter grades are posted to reflect the appeals

### **A-F Appeals**

The Policies and Procedures governing the A-F Appeals can be reviewed on the Board’s website.

Consistent with previous years, schools may appeal their letter grade based on one or more

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of the following: 1) Environmental issues or events; 2) Adverse testing conditions; 3) School or community emergency; 4) School tragedy; 5) Other similar substantive events; or 6) Incorrect data.

Schools filing an appeal must provide supporting evidence that demonstrates the grounds for the appeal were, among other things, outside the school's control and a substantial cause of the school's performance.

Appeals that contain personally identifiable information including student names, student addresses or social security numbers will be immediately discarded and will be denied without further review. Additionally, appeals that cite non-substantive events will not be evaluated (e.g. this student was often absent from math class and should not be included in the school's letter grade).

For more information on A-F Letter Grades, visit the Board's website: <https://azsbe.az.gov/f-school-letter-grades>.

### **Educator Discipline**

The Board took two important actions towards continued improvements to the educator discipline process and protecting student health and safety.

The first action was the approval of a legislative draft that will allow the Arizona Department of Education to investigate, and the Board to take action against, certain non-certified educators for immoral or unprofessional conduct. The draft also increases information sharing between the state and schools and agencies and ensures any educator with a suspended certificated does not remain in classrooms.

The second action was to continue rulemaking to allow the Board to emergency suspend a certificate holder who is arrested and cited for an offense that results in the certificate holder losing their fingerprint clearance card if convicted. These offenses represent the most egregious offenses. The rule may be adopted as early as the December 13<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

### **Future Meetings**

***The next Board meeting has been moved to December 13, 2019 at 10:00 AM.*** The 2020 Board Meeting schedule is available [here](#). Meeting materials may be found [here](#). You can also follow us on Twitter @AzBoardEd and on Facebook @azstateboard

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