



**Arizona State Board of Education**  
1700 W. Washington Street Executive Tower, Suite 300  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007  
Phone: (602) 542-5057  
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## **December 14, 2020**

The Board held its last meeting of the year on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Below are highlights from the Meeting.

### **Statewide Assessment and A-F Accountability Resolution**

Building on discussions at two previous meetings, the Board adopted a resolution advocating for both:

- 1) The administration of the statewide assessment to students in the Spring of 2021 and the collection and appropriate reporting of achievement data for the 2020-2021 school year; and
- 2) A pause on issuing A-F letter grades for the 2020-2021 school year.

The Resolution will guide the Board's advocacy during the 2021 Legislative Session.

The entire resolution can be read [here](#).

### **Spring 2021 Statewide Assessment**

Prior to December, the Board modified the statewide assessment in response to the impacts of COVID-19. The Board eliminated duplicative testing in science, shortened the assessments by removing field test items, and elected to use the same test forms to improve comparability.

The Board continues to review statewide assessment policies and procedures in light of the impact of COVID-19. At the December 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting, the Board took additional action to extend the testing window by two weeks to provide schools additional time to administer the assessment. The Board also approved the Arizona Department of Education's (ADE) recommendation to use the same performance level cuts when reporting 10<sup>th</sup> grade math scores for this year. Due to the cancellation of the statewide assessment in the 2019-2020 school year and the transition to a new assessment beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, this will be the first and only time the 10<sup>th</sup> grade math assessment will be administered. The Board elected to keep reporting of scores on this assessment as consistent as possible during the transition.

### **Distance Learning Plans**

Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-41, ADE evaluated a sample of schools' distance learning plans across five categories to determine compliance with the Executive Order, statute and policies and procedures. ADE reported that approximately 80% of the 52 local education agencies (LEAs) in the sample provided the appropriate evidence. ADE is working with the remaining LEAs to support the submission of evidence. ADE will provide any outstanding findings to the Board at the January 25, 2021 Meeting for possible remediation action.

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*Superintendent of Public Instruction:* Kathy Hoffman  
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## **Rulemaking Update**

Below is a brief summary of Board rules in the process. Public comments are always welcome at [inbox@azsbe.az.gov](mailto: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 with statutory requirements. The Board may adopt the rule as soon as the January 25, 2021 meeting.
- **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. A virtual public hearing will be held on January 13, 2021 at noon. The Board will receive an update on the rules at the January 25, 2021 Meeting and 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 in 2021.

## **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 January 25, 2021.

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