



## Arizona State Board of Education

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### Arizona State Board of Education Releases COVID-19 Academic Impact Report

Today the Arizona State Board of Education released the COVID-19 Academic Impact Report. The report uses data from the 2020-2021 school year to draw comparisons to prior years and to identify the impact of COVID-19 on student learning. The report was completed in partnership with the Arizona Department of Education, the Helios Education Foundation, the Center for Assessment, Abt Associates and Arizona State University's Decision Theatre for Educational Excellence.

Due to the varied and diverse COVID-19 impacts, data from the 2020-2021 school year is not as complete or reliable as prior years. Notwithstanding the issues with the data, there are insights to be gleaned at the state level. Significant takeaways include the following:

1. Early grades saw larger academic impacts;
2. The impact to mathematics is larger than the impact to English language arts, but both are significant and broad;
3. Student mobility (i.e. students moving to different schools or to homeschooling) was higher compared to prior years; and
4. English learners continue to struggle more than their English-language proficient peers.

The report can be found here: <https://azsbe.az.gov/2020-2021-school-year-reports>.

Recovery and acceleration of student learning may require a broad, multi-year approach. In December, the Board will issue a follow-up report that identifies schools that had a positive impact on student learning in the 2020-2021 school year despite the challenges of COVID-19. The follow-up report is intended to present information to schools to further learn "what worked" in this unprecedented situation.

The Board is also legally obligated under HB 2402 to identify below average performing schools in lieu of issuing A-F letter grades and to direct the Arizona Department of Education to release additional data from the 2020-2021 school year. The Board has accomplished this obligation. Importantly, the Board reiterates that the data from the 2020-2021 school year is not complete and the situations created by the COVID-19 pandemic caused a varied, diverse and disproportionate impact on Arizona's student population, especially affecting our students in poverty and English learners. As a result, the Board advises caution when making comparisons or inferences without considering other contextual factors. The Board intends for this data to be used to positively impact schools to improve performance and urges the identified schools to access available resources to assist in this improvement effort.

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