



## Arizona State Board of Education

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



**December 13, 2019**

Below are highlights of the Board's last meeting of the year.

### **School Safety Program**

The Board approved the Arizona Department of Education's recommendations to award School Safety Program grant dollars. The awardees and additional information can be found [here](#).

The Program will fund 116 school resource officers, 148 school counselors and 118 social workers across 14 counties, both district and charter schools, and both urban and rural schools.

Earlier this year the Legislature appropriated \$32 million to the School Safety Program and expanded the Program to include school counselors and social workers, in addition to school resource officers and juvenile probation officers. ADE received \$97 million in requests from schools; meaning there was roughly 1/3 of the funding available to meet every request.

### **A-F Accountability Appeals**

The Board took action on 99 [A-F Appeals](#) filed by schools; finalizing the 2018-2019 A-F Letter Grades. An updated file containing the letter grades will be posted on December 16<sup>th</sup>.

Schools could file an appeal due to environmental issues or events, school or community emergencies, school tragedies, other similar substantive events, or incorrect data. A Committee, made up of three Board members, reviewed every appeal and made recommendations based on the Board-adopted Rubric and Policies and Procedures. ADE and Board staff provided technical assistance to the Committee.

### **Future A-F Accountability**

To accommodate changes in the assessment system and respond to feedback from the field, the Board reviewed possible changes to the A-F Accountability System for the 2019-2020 school year and the 2020-2021 school year.

Possible changes include a return to a traditional growth measure in high school: student growth percentiles (SGP). As a reminder, the Board adopted a modified growth measure for the 2018-2019 school year due to the technical challenges of scaling multiple assessments into a valid and reliable growth score. Because all schools will be using the same high school assessment in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade for the next two school years (2019-2020 and 2020-2021) a return to a more traditional growth measure is possible.

The Board also considered changes to the Acceleration/Readiness Indicator in the K-8

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*Superintendent of Public Instruction:* Kathy Hoffman

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Accountability System and bonus points that are awarded to schools for serving special education populations.

All of the possible changes can be found [here](#). A survey will be released to the soon to gather feedback.

### **English Language Frameworks**

With the assistance of national experts and practitioners, the Arizona Department of Education recommended, and the Board approved new English language frameworks. These frameworks will be used to evaluate schools' structured English immersion models and alternative language models, which conform to reformed English language instruction requirements, passed by the Legislature earlier this year.

### **Rulemaking**

Several rulemaking efforts are underway at the Board. Below is a brief synopsis of the proposed rule changes:

- Certification Renewal: The Board received an update on a certification renewal proposal that allows educators who are Nationally Board Certified, a rigorous national certification, to automatically receive a renewal of their certificate. The Board may adopt this as early as its January Board Meeting
- Special Education Endorsement: The Board began the rulemaking process on a new special education endorsement that allows currently certified teachers to switch to a special education classroom with additional coursework. The Board may adopt this as early as its February Board Meeting.
- Educator discipline: A rule was adopted to allow for the emergency suspension of an educator's certificate who is arrested for a serious offense.
- English Language Learner Programs: Finally, a rule was adopted to update English language learner program rules.

All rules, both those that are adopted and those that are in process, can be found [here](#).

### **Progress Towards New Statewide Assessment**

After significant outreach to schools and the public, the scope of work for a new statewide assessment was approved at the December Board Meeting. The scope of work will be released by the end of December and the Board plans to adopt a new statewide assessment in late Spring 2020 for implementation in the 2021-2022 school year.

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### **Future Meetings**

The next Board Meeting is January 27, 2020 in Yuma. 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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