



## Arizona State Board of Education

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



# 2017-2018 A-F Letter Grades Released

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For immediate release

Contact: Alicia Williams,  
Executive Director, (602) 542-5057

The number of schools rated A rose in the 2017-2018 school year, establishing themselves as pacesetters in Arizona's push for higher academic performance.

The Arizona Department of Education released the A-F Letter Grades for the 2017-18 school year at the direction of the State Board of Education.

27.67 percent of K-8 schools and 22.69 percent of high schools earned As. That is up from 19.74 percent and 19.33 percent, respectively, in the 2016-2017 school year.

"We set the A level to recognize distinguished academic performance that is significantly higher than the state average," said Board of Education President Luke Narducci. "We wanted the bar to be high enough that principals, teachers and students would have something to strive for. I'm delighted to see that academic achievement is increasing."

A-F letter grades are based on student academic growth from year to year, scores on the AzMERIT assessment, high school graduation rates and indicators that a student is ready for success at the next level.

The Board reduced the minimum size for any subgroup of students' scores to be counted, which means schools are being held accountable for a larger breadth of students. The new grades more accurately indicate how well a school is doing in educating all students, an important yardstick for parents.

Developed by a broad cross-section of stakeholders, the letter grades give school leaders a snapshot of where they are doing well and where they need to improve. It creates an incentive for the constant improvement that parents, taxpayers and state leaders expect from our public schools.

The full breakdown of 2017-18 schools (the number of schools in parentheses)<sup>1</sup>:

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<sup>1</sup> A previous version of this press release had incorrect percentages. It has since been corrected.

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**Board Members:**

**President:** Luke Narducci      **Vice President:** Dr. Daniel Corr

**Superintendent of Public Instruction:** Diane Douglas

• Calvin Baker • Jill Broussard • Christine Burton • Dr. Rita Cheng • Janice Mak • Michele Kaye • Jared Taylor • Patricia Welborn

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| School Type | A            | B            | C            | D            | F          |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| K-8         | 27.67% (373) | 31.16% (420) | 27.30% (368) | 10.83% (146) | 3.04% (41) |
| 9-12        | 22.69% (54)  | 30.25% (72)  | 31.93% (76)  | 12.61% (30)  | 2.52% (6)  |
| Hybrid      | 36.78% (32)  | 26.44% (23)  | 21.84% (19)  | 10.34% (9)   | 4.6% (4)   |

In 2016-17, the percentages were:

| School Type         | A            | B            | C            | D           | F          |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|------------|
| K-8                 | 19.74% (260) | 38.42% (506) | 29.54% (389) | 9.95% (131) | 2.35% (31) |
| 9-12                | 19.33% (52)  | 36.06% (97)  | 32.71% (88)  | 9.29% (25)  | 2.60% (7)  |
| Hybrid <sup>1</sup> | 30.77% (8)   | 26.92% (7)   | 26.92% (7)   | 15.38% (4)  | 0.00% (0)  |

Schools have until October 25<sup>th</sup> to appeal their letter grade based on mitigating factors. Depending on the outcome of the appeal, those schools' letter grades may change.

Letter grades for each school can be found at <https://azsbe.az.gov/f-school-letter-grades>.

<sup>1</sup> Hybrid schools are classified as schools that serve non-typical school configurations (i.e. schools that serve grades across both the K-8 model and the 9-12 model)

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