

MEETING MINUTES

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Arizona State Board of Education  
Accountability Technical Advisory Committee

NOTICE AND AGENDA

Pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the Arizona State Board of Education, the Accountability Technical Advisory Committee and to the general public that the Committee will hold a meeting, open to the public, on **Monday, September 11, 2023, at 1:00 P.M at the Arizona Department of Education, Room 416/417, 1535 W Jefferson St, Phoenix, AZ 85007.**

A copy of the agenda for the meeting is attached. The Committee reserves the right to change the order of items on the agenda, with the exception of public hearings. One or more members of the Committee may participate telephonically.

Agenda materials can be reviewed online  
at <http://azsbe.az.gov>(<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com//SU/4ZwqeeEQC9x6DOQvi8FGHQ==>)

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02 (H), the Committee may discuss and take action concerning any matter listed on the agenda.

Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation such as a sign language interpreter or narrator by contacting the State Board Office at (602) 542-5057. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

Please see below on how to access the meeting and provide public comment on agenda items.

**Methods on Accessing the State Board of Education Meeting**

**Procedure for Submitting Public Comment:**

For individuals wishing to submit public comment

**Written Comment:**

Written comments for the meeting will be accepted by:

- email [inbox@azsbe.az.gov](mailto:inbox@azsbe.az.gov)(<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com//SU/YhrEghWngpFB0plus4VUf5yDQ==>)
- fax to (602) 542-3046
- USPS to 1700 W. Washington St., Executive Tower, Suite 300, Phoenix, Arizona 85007

**The deadline to submit a written comment will be Thursday, September 7, 2023 at 12:00 PM.**

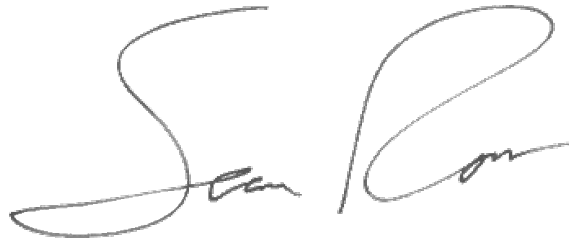
Written comments received after the deadline will not be posted and will not be provided to members.

Written comments will not be read into the record, however, staff will post all written comments received by the deadline on the Committee's agenda by **Friday, September 8, 2023 at 5:00 PM.**

DATED AND POSTED this 5th of September, 2023

Alternative Accountability Technical Advisory Committee

by:



Sean Ross, Executive Director  
State Board of Education  
(602) 542-5057

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## 1. Operational

*Committee Meeting commenced at 1:02pm.*

### Attendees

Sean Rickert, Chair  
Jason Piontkowski, Vice Chair  
David Jordan  
Debbie Penn  
Jonathan Rohloff  
Kelly Powell  
Mary Berg  
Jennifer Fletcher  
Rick Guyer  
Tyson Myers  
Maja Aleksic  
Katie Dauphinais  
Christy Hovanetz

Jessica Mueller, Research and Data Analyst for the State Board of Education, took attendance. The Committee has a quorum.

*Katie Dauphinais joined the Committee Meeting at 1:04pm*

*Debbie Penn joined the Committee Meeting at 1:05pm*

### **A. Comments for the record**

Jessica Mueller, Research and Data Analyst for the State Board of Education, provided an update on the public comments received. One written comment was received from Buckeye Union.

## 2. Technical

### **A. UPDATED - Discussion and recommendation to Board on SY2022-2023 cut scores - UPDATED**

Sean Smith, Chief Accountability Officer for the Arizona Department of Education, presented the drafted A-F Accountability presentation.

Sean Ross, Executive Director for the State Board of Education, made comments about providing the historical context of the A-F Model and the previous actions of the State Board of Education. The Standard Deviation cut scores does not allow every school to earn an "A".

Members stated that the prior year cut scores honors the hard work that schools have completed in the now finished school-year, 2022-2023.

Members stated that it is concerning and de-motivating that the historical data evaluation methods can be altered after the fact. Especially when the chosen evaluation method removes consideration of all previous improvements

and accomplishments.

Sean Smith, Chief Accountability Officer for the Arizona Department of Education, stated that while establishing cut scores prior to the beginning of the school year allows schools to plan for any possible changes to cut score evaluation, this process is in place to ensure schools have the opportunity to check the validity of their data in the static file prior to the release.

Members discussed the changes in letter grade impact on grades K-8 for years 2019 and 2023.

Members discussed the potential negative impact on schools when accountability grades are linked to some funding sources.

Members stated that deciding cut scores based on just impact data is not preferable as it does not take policy and validating indicators into account. Validity is important to understand the score and the context therein. One must review the descriptors of what each letter grade represents and assess whether the results of the cut scores correspond to the descriptions that are presented.

Sean Ross, Executive Director for the State Board of Education, provided clarification regarding the possible motions.

A motion was made to recommend the prior year cut scores to the State Board of Education for Traditional K-8 and Traditional 9-12 schools for SY2022-2023 and recommends that the Board not consider the 60/70/80/90 cut score model for Traditional K-8 and Traditional 9-12 schools for SY2022-2023.

Motion made by: Jason Piontkowski

Motion seconded by: Jennifer Fletcher

Motion passed: 13-0.

Sean Rickert - Yes  
Jason Piontkowski - Yes  
David Jordan - Yes  
Debbie Penn - Yes  
Jonathan Rohloff - Yes  
Kelly Powell - Yes  
Mary Berg - Yes  
Jennifer Fletcher - Yes  
Rick Guyer - Yes  
Tyson Myers - Yes  
Maja Aleksic - Yes  
Katie Dauphinais - Yes  
Christy Hovanetz - Yes

## **B. Study and discussion of ADE/Accountability questions**

### **i. UPDATED - Discussion on growth for 9-12 schools (SY2023-2024) - UPDATED**

Sean Smith, Chief Accountability Officer for the Arizona Department of Education, presented to the Committee.

*Jessica Mueller left the meeting at 1:36pm.*

*Jessica Mueller returned to the meeting at 1:37pm.*

Sean Smith, Chief Accountability Officer for the Arizona Department of Education, stated that the 8th grade ASPIRE could be utilized to measure a school's impact if Members are comfortable with exploring 8th and 9th grade ASPIRE to measure growth.

Members discussed how to utilize ASPIRE, its longevity, its value, and how meaningful the captured data would be. Members also discussed if it would be appropriate to use this data to capture growth and any unforeseen ramifications.

A Member stated that the ATAC should continue this discussion regarding utilizing the 8th to 9th grade ASPIRE data to measure future growth. Especially as related to smaller schools, rural districts, and SES (school descriptors,

student subgroups, unified vs. union high school district, etc.).

Yassin Fahmy, Director of Accountability for the Arizona Department of Education, presented to the committee. Poverty and growth were not correlated in the 2022-2023 school year in grades K-8, however, it was correlated in grades 9-12.

Members discussed the challenges with ranking schools by percentiles/peer groups. This data evaluation method forces some schools/students to the bottom rank. Further discussion of this evaluation method is necessary.

Sean Smith, Chief Accountability Officer for the Arizona Department of Education, made comments about how the ACT ASPIRE distributions are fairly close to the ACT scores. Since the ACT ASPIRE data is used to measure preparedness for the ACT, this data could be utilized to estimate cut scores.

Jessica Mueller, Research and Data Analyst for the State Board of Education, stated that the math scores have the largest difference in performance level.

Sean Ross, Executive Director for the State Board of Education, stated that this agenda item is not a voting item. It is meant to measure interest by the ATAC.

Sean Smith, Chief Accountability Officer for the Arizona Department of Education, stated that his team will continue to research data that the ATAC is interested in seeing.

*Sean Ross left the meeting at 2:00pm.*

### **C. UPDATED - Study and discussion of Board member questions - UPDATED**

#### **i. Graduation rate for students with disabilities for 5, 6, 7-year cohorts**

Jessica Mueller, Research and Data Analyst for the State Board of Education, presented to the Committee two options on how to count the later graduation cohorts for students with disabilities.

Sean Smith, Chief Accountability Officer for the Arizona Department of Education, made comments regarding the negative aspects of option 1, involving each cohort being considered at equal weight may de incentivize schools into keeping SPED students longer than they should.

Jessica Mueller, Research and Data Analyst for the State Board of Education, compared the 2020 graduating data by subgroup cohorts.

Sean Smith, Chief Accountability Officer for the Arizona Department of Education, made comments regarding the negative aspects of option 2. Self-reported graduation cohort for IEP students can be a big lift. Big schools may not be affected, but small schools will be. Such changes may do more harm than expected.

Sean Ross, Executive Director for the State Board of Education, stated that it may be appropriate to open the appeal process for these students.

Jessica Mueller, Research and Data Analyst for the State Board of Education, stated that the ATAC could adopt new policies and procedures for appeals to include this scenario where schools act in accordance with the student's IEP.

#### **ii. UPDATED - Students included/excluded from accountability - UPDATED**

Yassin Fahmy, Director of Accountability for the Arizona Department of Education, presented FAY Criteria for 9-12 and K-8 to the committee.

Members discussed at risk sub groups and the percentage of students enrolled on Oct 1 that are not reflected in FAY. One of the reasons for applying the current FAY rule is the perception of holding schools accountable for non-FAY performance as not a fair measure of school quality. If schools don't have students for enough days of instruction to make an impact, these students are removed from the formula.

Yassin Fahmy, Director of Accountability for the Arizona Department of Education, stated that the data groups are not mutually exclusive. As such, the totals from the subgroups cannot be summed to "add up to 100".

Members discussed that there must be a way to account for the missing students and correlate the data from the various subgroups. In a future meeting, the ATAC will review the performance of non-FAY students on indicators.

#### **D. Study and discussion of ATAC member questions**

##### **i. UPDATED - Presentation and discussion on bonus points - UPDATED**

Jessica Mueller, Research and Data Analyst for the State Board of Education, presented Bonus Points in Traditional Models to the Committee.

Sean Smith, Chief Accountability Officer for the Arizona Department of Education, stated that as the distribution of school cut scores are more closely knit, the more likely it is for bonus points to move schools up by a letter grade since it does not take much to move a school up.

Members discussed the complex nature of serving students with special education needs, recognizing the unique challenges and individualized approaches required to support their educational requirements and needs. Furthermore, the discussion addressed how the AF Letter Grade system can address the need for systems to support the intricate and dynamic nature of serving students with special education needs.

Sean Smith, Chief Accountability Officer for the Arizona Department of Education, made comments regarding the average bonus points earned.

Members discussed whether ACT ASPIRE participation for grades 9-12 will still earn a bonus point, or if this will be removed. If the bonus point for minimum participation is removed, it is possible that schools could be selective regarding who they test. If changes are being made to the bonus point structure, schools need to be made aware of the changes beforehand (beyond SY23-24).

Sean Smith, Chief Accountability Officer for the Arizona Department of Education, stated that any changes would only be considered for the 2024-2025 school year at the earliest.

Members discussed how certain bonus points are considered meaningful. Certain bonus points are considered meaningful so the ATAC may measure the data to evaluate inclusion in the indicators. Over time, some of these bonus points should become required. Some of the gathered data is more than 3 years old and the TAC should discuss how if the data is actually helpful. If the gathered data is not differentiating school performance, the associated bonus points should be terminated.

#### **E. Discussion on SY2023-2024 business rules**

##### **i. Discussion on RAEL: Inclusion of Math proficiency test scores**

Agenda Item 2Ei will be moved to a future meeting.

#### **3. Future Meeting Dates and Items for Future Agendas**

Jessica Mueller, Research and Data Analyst for the State Board of Education, made comments about the next meeting and reminded Members to email comments about future agendas.

*Committee Meeting adjourned at 3:05pm.*