

MEETING MINUTES

Arizona State Board of Education
Alternative 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 Alternative 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 10:00 A.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\(https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com//SU/CxysUcZQyJ5BMs64Of1FNQ==\)](http://azsbe.az.gov(https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com//SU/CxysUcZQyJ5BMs64Of1FNQ==))

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\(https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com//SU/YhrEghWngpFB0plus4VUf5yDQ==\)](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.

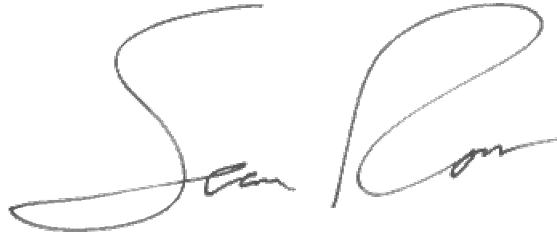
Written comments received after the deadline will not be posted and will not be provided to members.

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 1st day of September, 2023.

Alternative Accountability Technical Advisory Committee

by:



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

1. Operational

Committee Meeting commenced at 10:02am.

Attendees

Binky Michelle Jones, Chair
Mary Berg, Vice Chair
Kellie Burns, Committee Member
Kelly Powell, Committee Member
Sue Durkin, Committee Member
Wayne Tucker, Committee Member
Harriet Caruso, Committee Member

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

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.

Member Kellie Burns joined the committee meeting at 10:03am

Members discussed a letter from Sean Rickert, Superintendent of Pima Unified School District and Chair of the Accountability Technical Advisory Committee, about letter grades.

A Member made comments about the grades and standard deviation scores.

Sean Ross, Executive Director for the State Board of Education, made comments about a letter from Sean Rickert, Superintendent of Pima Unified School District and Chair of the Accountability Technical Advisory Committee, about letter grades.

Vice Chair Mary Berg joined the meeting at 10:05am.

Member Tucker joined the meeting at 10:07am.

The Committee reviewed the letter from Sean Rickert, Superintendent of Pima Unified School District and Chair of the Accountability Technical Advisory Committee, about letter grades.

2. Technical

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

Chair Binky Michelle Jones clarified the various motion options regarding the SY2022-2023 accountability cut scores.

A motion was made to recommend the prior year cut scores to the State Board of Education for the alternative model for SY2022-2023 and to recommend the Board not consider the standard deviation cut scores. Discussion continued.

Sean Ross, Executive Director for the State Board of Education, made comments about consideration of the 70/80/90.

Members discussed the limited validity of the 70/80/90 cut score model for alternative schools since college entrance testing already tests for proficiency.

Members discussed what it means to be successful, growth, and the best methods to maintain validity in the Board's accountability model.

Jessica Mueller, Research and Data Analyst for the State Board of Education, presented the 2023 Components Analysis with Applied Previous Year Cuts to the Committee.

Sean Smith, Chief Accountability Officer for the Arizona Department of Education, made comments about the distribution of data as related to the standard deviation, 70/80/90, and prior year cut scores.

Members discussed proficiency weight and growth. In a future Committee meeting, Members will discuss growth as an indicator for alternative schools due to the wider distribution and increased ability for schools to receive points.

Chair Binky Michelle Jones amended the proposed motion.

A motion was made for the AATAC to recommend the prior year cut scores to the State Board of Education for Alternative Schools for SY2022-2023 and recommends that the Board not consider the 60/70/80/90 or standard deviation cut score models for Alternative Schools for SY2022-2023.

Motion passed: 7-0.

Motion made by: Mary Berg

Motion seconded by: Wayne Tucker

Voting:

Binky Michelle Jones - Yes

Mary Berg - Yes

Kellie Burns - Yes

Kelly Powell - Yes

Sue Durkin - Yes

Wayne Tucker - Yes

Harriet Caruso - Yes

Chair Binky Michelle Jones requested a preview of the presentation that will be provided to the Board.

Sean Smith, Chief Accountability Officer for the Arizona Department of Education, stated that a draft will be emailed to everyone.

B. Study and discussion of AATAC member questions

i. School Finance: Discussion on A.R.S. 15-915 prior year data corrections

Jessica Mueller, Research and Data Analyst for the State Board of Education, presented this agenda item to the Committee. School Finance is attending today's Committee meeting.

A Member stated that the Department's School Finance Audit Team needs to attend the Committee meeting since School Finance does not write the rules. Committee has questions regarding audits of alternative schools, such as the instructional time model, minute log, ramifications of audits, audits of ADM, audits of 15-915's, etc.

Tim McCain, Deputy Associate Superintendent for School Finance, introduced himself to the committee. Tim McCain stated that the 15-915 process is still used extensively by schools; however, School Finance has no authority to compel schools to complete a 15-915. School Finance will document students that are reported as graduating, but did not graduate. School Finance will encourage the "graduating school" to correct their records via a 15-915 to allow the new school to be granted their funding. However, some schools choose not to since it can negatively affect the "graduating school's" funding calculation due to new rules regarding retroactive corrections. A new statute guarantees that the receiving/new school will receive funding through a statewide re-calculation of funding regardless.

A Member inquired about whether School Finance has another process for the new school to correct its data without a 15-915.

Tim McCain clarified that School Finance does not have another process outside of the 15-915. It is possible that a new process can be integrated into accountability. Ramifications for federal accountability will be considered.

A Member inquired about correcting the "graduating school's" graduation data.

Tim McCain stated that School Finance does not change data. AzEDS data belongs to the school.

ii. Update on Graduation/Drop Out Tracker reports

A Member sought clarification about another method for correcting reported graduation.

Tim McCain, Deputy Associate Superintendent for School Finance, stated that the only method is the 15-915. School Finance is discussing another process involving changing withdrawal codes. This method will allow another school to pick up the student in question. However, this method can also cause issues regarding calculating ADM for the "graduating school". Ramifications for federal accountability will be considered.

Tim McCain stated that School Finance has new integrity rules that require corrections to integrity to be retroactive. These new rules did not exist in SAIS. These rules were led by Data Governance to be a cross-agency effort.

Jessica Mueller, Research and Data Analyst for the State Board of Education, stated that the Board had a few appeals like this last year.

Sean Smith, Chief Accountability Officer for the Arizona Department of Education, sought clarification about how far back the data should be audited.

A Member stated that the data should be audited to the first day of instruction to the previous school year.

A Member asked if appeals involving incorrect data of this nature can be made with ADE-generated data. It is possible that by analyzing such appeals, a new process can be identified that does not require a 15-915.

Yassin Fahmy, Director of Accountability for the Arizona Department of Education, stated that the Department can correct the graduation data at the state level, but not at the Federal level. Furthermore, the two graduation rates will no longer correspond.

Sean Smith, Chief Accountability Officer for the Arizona Department of Education, agreed that correcting data may be tricky and handling these cases in the appeals process may be easier in the short-term.

iii. Update on late and missing submissions for self-reported data (SY2022-2023)

Jessica Mueller, Research and Data Analyst for the State Board of Education, presented to the Committee.

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

Sean Ross, Executive Director for the State Board of Education, presented to the Committee. The portal is closed; however, ADE is reaching out to schools for their last chance to submit self-reported data. This communication approach will result in a reduction of appeals and allow a more accurate letter grade release.

Jessica Mueller, Research and Data Analyst for the State Board of Education, stated that this approach has helped to reduce the number of schools appealing that they did not know how to complete reports. The Board will evaluate the self-reported data.

iv. Update on Academic Persistence: SC coding error

Sean Smith, Chief Accountability Officer for the Arizona Department of Education, presented to the committee. The Department IT team is working with the SC code and it should be ready prior to any received appeals. If the code is not ready, the Department can work with a school prior to an appeal being filed.

Jessica Mueller, Research and Data Analyst for the State Board of Education, stated that previously, the SC code was corrected in real time.

A Member inquired about whether the AP report will be updated to allow schools to evaluate their letter grades.

Sean Smith, Chief Accountability Officer for the Arizona Department of Education, stated that the Department is engaged in a Federal accountability project. The Department will be able to refocus on this issue until October.

v. Discussion on alternative school designation and audit process

Jessica Mueller, Research and Data Analyst for the State Board of Education, introduced this agenda item to the Committee.

Sean Smith, Chief Accountability Officer for the Arizona Department of Education, stated that the Department is working with the Charter Board to update the Department's criteria for initial approval of the alternative school application.

Sean Smith, Chief Accountability Officer for the Arizona Department of Education, stated that the data is evaluated by a group. However, if an audit is needed, the school will meet with a Department representative to review the data with the school.

Brandon Giles, Project Specialist for the Arizona Department of Education, stated that the Department must audit if the school is within 1 student of 70%.

Members discussed their positive experiences with the Department audit process.

C. Discussion on SY2023-2024 business rules

Member Wayne Tucker left the meeting at 11:39am.

Sean Ross, Executive Director for the State Board of Education, stated that in the future, the AATAC does plan to approve business rules and set cut scores earlier in the year to provide schools with more lead time.

Sean Smith, Chief Accountability Officer for the Arizona Department of Education, stated that models and drafted timelines could be presented in December.

Member Wayne Tucker returned to the meeting at 11:41am.

Sean Smith, Chief Accountability Officer for the Arizona Department of Education, and Sean Ross, Executive Director for the State Board of Education, stated that business rules for next year should be considered in December.

Sean Ross, Executive Director for the State Board of Education, stated that the goal for SY2024-25 is to present the Business Rules prior to the school year.

Sean Ross, Executive Director for the State Board of Education, left the committee meeting at 11:46am.

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

Sean Smith, Chief Accountability Officer for the Arizona Department of Education, stated that English scores are included in proficiency scores, however, math is excluded. There is logic in excluding math since there is language in math.

Members discussed the definition of Recently Arrived English Learner (RAEL) students. Members discussed whether RAEL/Math scores are included in calculating proficiency in other states. This change can become a slippery slope, but there is reasonable logic to the exclusion due to the presence of word problems.

Jessica Mueller, Research and Data Analyst for the State Board of Education, stated that other states found English proficiency scores can predict Math proficiency scores.

Sean Ross, Executive Director for the State Board of Education, stated that proficiency scoring should certainly align with evidence-based research.

3. Future Meeting Dates and Items for Future Agendas

Members agreed to continue discussion regarding students in Grades 6-8 in alternative schools at a future meeting, specifically regarding how students who are behind negatively affect their school's proficiency data.

Committee Meeting adjourned at 12:03pm.