

MEETING MINUTES

Arizona State Board of Education Accountability Technical Advisory Committee

NOTICE AND **AMENDED** 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, February 5, 2024, at 1:00 P.M. at the Arizona Department of Education, 1535 W Jefferson St, Room 2B, Phoenix, AZ 85007. Amended location: 1535 W Jefferson St, Room B2, Phoenix, AZ 85007**

Members of the public will have physical access to the meeting location 10 minutes before the Committee meeting, at 12:50 P.M.

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>

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

Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03 (A) (2), the Committee may vote to convene in executive session, which will not be open to the public, for discussion or consideration of records exempt by law from public inspection.

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 Committee Meeting

This meeting is accessible to the public through in-person attendance at the address listed on this notice. This meeting is not live-streamed to any platform, or recorded. Accessing the meeting virtually through a link is not available at this time. Please refer to materials published on this agenda, procedure for submitting public comment, and minutes published online: <https://azsbe.az.gov/public-meetings/committee-meetings>.

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
- 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 Friday, February 2, 2024 at 12:00 PM.

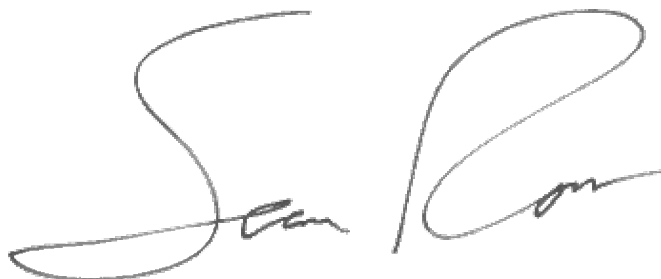
Written comments received after the deadline will not be posted and will not be provided to members.

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, February 2, 2024 at 5:00 PM.**

DATED AND POSTED this 5th day of February, 2024.

Accountability Technical Advisory Committee

by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean Ross". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sean" and last name "Ross" clearly distinguishable.

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

1. Operational

Meeting called to order at 1:01pm.

Attendance:

Sean Rickert, Committee Chair (*left the meeting at 1:59pm*)
Jason Piontkowski, Committee ViceChair - present
David Jordan, Committee Member - present
Debbie Penn, Committee Member - present
Kelly Powell, Committee Member - present
Mary Berg, Committee Member - present
Jennifer Fletcher, Committee Member - present
Rick Guyer, Committee Member - present

Maja Aleksic, Committee Member - absent
Christy Hovanetz, Committee Member - absent
Tyson Myers, Committee Member - absent

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

Chair Rickert made introduction comments to the committee meeting.

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. No comments were received and there are two members of the public observing the committee meeting.

Jessica and Members discussed the possibility of permitting virtual attendance for guests wanting to observe Committee meetings. Jessica shared that there has been concern about recordings and personal information being shared, additionally livestreaming in the event of Executive Session poses difficulty.

Jonathan Rohloff, Member arrived at 1:02pm.

Jessica and Committee Members discussed allowing viewers virtual access to committee meetings. Concerns were noted about the committee meetings potentially containing confidential data, compromising the "brainstorming" function of the committee meetings, and generating confusion about the school year for which changes are being considered and causing unnecessary stress and concern. Other members expressed a desire for transparency.

Chair Rickert arrived at 1:13pm

Jessica noted that there has been confusion because not all of the TACs address this in the same way. Jessica noted that the Alternative Accountability Technical Advisory Committee decided to hold off on allowing virtual attendance for viewers for the time being and see how the other TACs respond.

Jessica explained that the rationale for individuals seeking virtual attendance is largely based on location and transportation time.

Committee members noted that the committee is intended to be a group of experts that are free to express opinions and are free from political pressure. The decision was made to allow in-person attendance and that feels like a big step and they expressed uncertainty if the Committee can continue to operate functionally with a higher level of public exposure.

Sean Smith, Chief Accountability Officer for the Arizona Department of Education noted that Committee members may need to make suggestions that are good for accountability but are not necessarily good for their own school.

Jessica noted that meeting minutes do not identify which committee members express comments/ideas so it allows for transparency without trying comments to a specific member.

2. Technical

A. Discussion and recommendation to Board on SY2023-2024 models and business rules

Chair Rickert introduced this agenda item and asked for Committee Member opinions on this topic.

Sean Smith and Jessica noted consideration from AATAC to include a note about appeals being considered for SPED student who have IEPs that suggest education beyond their 4-year cohort but that work would need to be done with ADE Exceptional Student Services to see what recommendations would need to be included.

Sean Smith noted that generally everyone would like to wait on student growth targets (SGT) prior to implementation and that they are not included in what is before the committee. The existing draft has very few changes intentionally. Sean noted that SGT will still be provided in the static file .

Jessica asked if the science scores for Recently Arrived English Learners should be included? Including them would be an extra bonus in the numerator however growth should not include them until their second year. Sean Smith noted that would create consistency across Math, English and Science for all English Learners.

Jessica asked if students with disabilities were supposed to be removed from the 3rd year ELA. Sean Smith noted he would need to check to see if that was the case. Members asked about the rationale for that and Jessica noted it was retention of students. Audra Ahumada, Deputy Associate Superintendent of Assessments at the Arizona Department of Education, explained that is was part of the good cause exemption.

Committee Members asked if retained students are included in the population. Sean Smith responded that as long as the student's enrolled grade matches the test that they took, they would be included. Members expressed that their understanding was the previously students that had been retained were not included. Other members noted that is not reflected in the business rules. Sean Smith noted that the code running the calculations does not do that.

Committee Members asked about inclusion in growth. Sean responded that MSAA students are removed from growth and students that have been retained are also removed from growth because their prior year test is for the same grade level.

Audra shared that most states do not include students that take an alternate assessment.

Committee Members asked to ensure that the version being considered is the most recent.

Jessica and Sean Smith confirmed that it was.

Committee members noted that the current system has issues with weights in the elementary level, middle school with a 5-year plan, uncertain weighting factor at the high school level, small schools, homogeneous populations, grade configuration, etc. It was noted that while not everything can be fixed at once, there are known issues and they could not support the current proposal.

Committee members noted that there are clearly many factors and concerns to address moving forward but the focus should be on moving forward with the 24-25 plan while keeping these issues in mind. Other committee members agreed but did not want to vote for something that they did not agree with. Other committee members noted that multiple recommendations could be submitted to the Board and the Board would decide.

Jessica clarified that the Committee could make a recommendation that a school be allowed to

appeal based on the business rules but that the reasons would need to be identified.

Committee members provided examples based on previous discussions.

Committee members noted that not all schools have the staff or resources to do extensive analysis of their grade or have an in-depth understanding of the system.

A motion was made to recommend that the State Board of Education approve the SY2023-2024 A-F models and business rules as presented with the acknowledgment that there is support of a system which is known to have wrinkles.

1st - Jason Piontkowski

2nd - David Jordan

Sean Rickert, Committee Chair - YES

Jason Piontkowski, Committee Vice-Chair - YES

David Jordan, Committee Member - YES

Debbie Penn, Committee Member - YES

Kelly Powell, Committee Member - NO

Mary Berg, Committee Member - YES

Jennifer Fletcher, Committee Member - YES

Rick Guyer, Committee Member - YES

Maja Aleksic, Committee Member - YES

Christy Hovanetz, Committee Member - YES

Tyson Myers - YES

Motion passed: 11-1.

B. Study and discussion of ATAC member questions

i. Discussion on state's 1% threshold for alternate assessments

Audra Ahumada presented to the Committee on this agenda item to explain about the 1% threshold for the alternate assessment and waivers.

Committee Members asked to clarify about the 95% tested requirement. Audra provided clarification that it is calculated based on students that are enrolled and eligible to participate in state testing.

Committee Members and Audra discussed the 1% cap historically to current times and the focus on providing the appropriate assessment to students. Sean Smith noted that the consequences of exceeding the 1% cap are the risk to federal funds.

Audra noted that the focus for alternate assessment determinations is high school because staff are not always sure if a student has a cognitive disability or if there is just a large gap.

Audra confirmed that Recently Arrived English Learners are included in the denominator for determine the percent.

Audra noted issues with high schools hitting 95% tested requirements and identified online schools as a specific struggle point.

Audra noted that there are higher scores being seen on the ACT test than in the End of Course assessments but AzSci has a low number of students testing. Audra also shared that AZELLA has great test participation.

C. Presentation and discussion on component scoring (method of calculation, aggregation to overall letter grade): Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03 (A) (2), the Committee may vote to convene in executive session, which will not be open to the public, for discussion or consideration of records exempt by law from public inspection

Jessica Mueller, Research and Data Analyst for the State Board of Education,
Sean Ross, Executive Director for the State Board of Education,
Sean Smith, Chief Accountability Officer for the Arizona Department of Education,
Yassin Fahmy, Senior Data Analyst for the Arizona Department of Education,

Committee Members, Sean Smith, and Jessica Mueller discussed current modeling, GPA approach, Acceleration readiness, and indicator scoring.

Jonathan Rohloff, Member left 2:31pm

Committee Members and Sean Smith had discussion on the challenges seen with the Acceleration Readiness indicator.

Jonathan Rohloff, Member came back 2:34pm

Sean Ross, Executive Director for the Arizona State Board of Education, presented to the committee about Senate Bill 1654 which removes the summative letter grade and only uses component scoring. Committee Members discussed their understanding of the bill. Sean Ross asked that if Committee Members have feedback, it be sent to Sean Smith so it can be compiled and shared with the bill sponsor.

Committee Members shared questions and concerns about the bill.

Mary Berg , member, left the meeting at 3:06pm.

Sean Ross suggested that Committee Members speak with their leadership regarding the bill and provide feedback to the legislature accordingly.

Sean Smith emphasized the importance of ensuring the indicators measure appropriately and that there is care in how the information is reported and published to the public.

3. Future Meeting Dates and Items for Future Agendas

Committee Members noted that if there are any items for future agendas, please send them to Jessica.

Committee Members and Sean Smith discussed Proficiency and SGT.

The Committee Meeting adjourned at 3:15pm.