

MEETING MINUTES

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, July 1, 2024, at 1:00 P.M at 1535 W Jefferson St Room 417, 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. 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, June 28, 2024 at 12:00 PM.

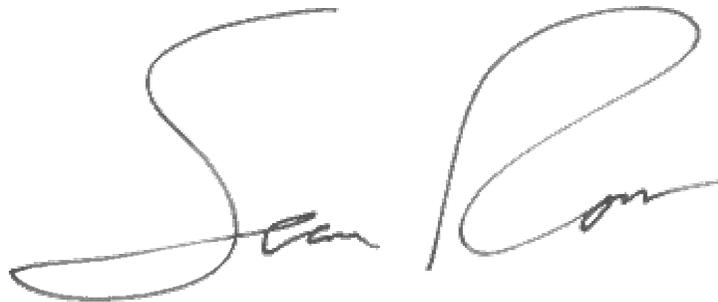
Written comments received after the deadline will not be posted and will not be provided to members.

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, June 28, 2024 at 5:00 PM.**

DATED AND POSTED this 25th day of June, 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 the last name "Ross" clearly distinguishable.

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

1. Operational

Committee Meeting commenced at 1:00pm.

Attendees

Sean Rickert, Chair
Jason Piontkowski, ViceChair
David Jordan, Committee Member
Debbie Penn, Committee Member
Kelly Powell, Committee Member
Mary Berg, Committee Member (*arrived at 1:08pm*)
Jonathan Rohloff, Committee Member
Rick Guyer, Committee Member
Christy Hovanetz, Committee Member

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

A. UPDATED - Comments for the record - UPDATED

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 and there were no members of the public observing the committee meeting.

B. Discussion on potential survey of accountability coordinators for input on indicator scoring

Member Mary Berg joined the Committee at 1:08pm.

Sean Smith, Chief Accountability Officer for the Arizona Department of Education, shared hope that the field will share feedback regarding the history of the accountability system. The feedback will be summarized and researched. Also seeking feedback on what training would be desired. Since no recommendations will be made to the Board in August, there is no immediate need to define indicators. A draft of the survey will be shared to ensure it will provide the desired feedback.

The Committee Members, Sean Smith, and Jessica Mueller discussed the methodology of the indicators. Clarification of "methodology" was requested. This means how meaningful the indicator letter grades are for each potential idea. In other words, nothing will be changed and the letter grade will be applied vs. changing the methods. Everything will be kept consistent as has been decided by the ATAC and communicated to the community.

The Committee Members, Sean Smith, and Jessica Mueller discussed the survey. The field will be asked what education they believe they will need, what doesn't make sense, what resources are necessary, etc. The field is not being asked their opinion about indicator scoring. Questions are regarding implementation. Indicator scoring is here to stay. Improvements to the system need to be as simple as possible. The ATAC wants to review the methodology of each component going forward. State statute requires that the summative letter grade be considered. Stakeholders need to be informed the final letter grade that will be reported out via report cards is their summative grade. The indicators have issues. Like the 2019 growth measures vs. 2021 and 2022. They are skewed. There are issues with proficiency too. The students are not getting dumber. It is the statewide test that they are required to take. It is concerning if the ATAC does nothing to correct the indicators.

The Committee Members Jessica Mueller, and Sean Smith discussed the indicator that is the priority. It was suggested that growth is where the most reform is needed regarding measuring school quality. It was suggested that EL needs attention to some extent since schools can get ten full points, but still be labeled a D. Discussion continued regarding which indicator is the most concerning. Clarification sought about whether the ATAC will continue to discuss or implement a survey across the state. It was suggested that the ATAC try to figure out the questions the ATAC wants the answers to and determine corrections out. The only thing left is for the Board to approve cut scores. Recommendation was made for last year's cut scores. For SY2024-25, the same business rules should be utilized. This allows a year to explain the indicators to the field and the Board. A suggestion was made to rank priorities with first, second, third, etc. The ATAC Committee Members can vote to determine what the top priorities are. The Committee Members are in agreement. Jessica Mueller will create a survey. It is important to boil down each indicator to what each one means. Growth is how much students grew in comparison to their peers. Acceleration Readiness is mostly indicating how many pieces of acceleration readiness the school is eligible for. Schools who are eligible for more points earn more points. Ranking is a great idea. Solutions should not be drafted in isolation. The ATAC can decide how to fix each indicator. The ATAC can choose the indicator worth the most points or that is the most messed up.

The Committee Members, Jessica Mueller, and Sean Smith discussed appeals of indicator letter grades. The Board will consider appeals based on indicator letter grades. This will also increase the workload of the ATAC. The appeals process will be extended to the January Board meeting. As such, approximately 95% of letter grades will be final by October.

The Committee Members, Jessica Mueller, and Sean Smith discussed corrections to the indicators. Success needs to be defined since this will guide conversations on how to correct all indicators. There is no purpose in discussing changes to the indicators if the ATAC cannot agree on what success is and looks like. SY2025-26 is where the adjustments will be made. This will allow schools to see what they would have scored relative to the rest of the schools in the state. Although the Board has not adopted the models. It will take time to draft them. The ATAC is aiming for January for SY2024-25's business rules. The ATAC still needs to consider SGT regarding data for 9-12 growth. The indicator scoring by itself will be significant enough that it warrants waiting for adjustments so that the adjustments do not throw off other areas. This can cause interfering signals. It would help to have an understanding of where the bias points are, since it will become very apparent once they are released. Growth measure is about taking students' growth as much as they can.

Jessica Mueller shared that the survey of ATAC priorities can be drafted by this weekend. Once the ATAC can see the similar viewpoints, the ATAC can start on the changes. The stark viewpoints can also start a discussion.

The Committee Members and Sean Smith discussed the indicators with an emphasis on the results of the data being misleading. Clarification sought regarding who will be able to attest that the indicator is broken and they are not representative of a school doing a bad job. There are not many people who know the difference. These indicators were not meant to stand in isolation, but we are asking them to do just that despite knowing that they are broken. There will be trouble when data that is known to be broken is published. On the

other hand, letter grades with known issues have been published for the last seven years. In agreement that this is the least-worst system that can be developed. The ATAC tries to compensate for this as best as possible. Only difference between SY2024-25 and SY2022-23 was the increase in transparency. Suggestion to correct indicator scores now to avoid publishing broken indicators. The goal of fixing indicators now seems unattainable and unreasonable. Suggestion to publish the indicator scores publicly for SY2022-23 although school leaders will be upset. School leaders are already upset that the system has been broken for seven years and there is no proof that the new system will be better. Schools have no reason to believe the new system will be better once they learn how broken the system has been for the last seven years. Concern that the ATAC will undermine the state's accountability system.

Yassin Fahmy, Senior Data Analyst for the Arizona Department of Education, made note of how the indicators are continually referred to as "broken". The letter grades are a target and have been working. Perhaps they have not been working to the full extent of the ATAC's intentions, but working nonetheless. When viewing the indicators through a comparative lens, some schools are doing better than others. However, the problem is the framework. The framework of the indicators is what needs to be updated.

The Committee Members and Sean Smith discussed how the A-F System is not perfect, but it is the least worst system. This system is not broken since it provides results. The results are not perfect and can get better. Ideals are the enemy of practicality. Indicators will shine a light on how growth is not actually telling us anything. There is an opportunity to share if schools are above or below the mean. This information has not been made public before. Schools do not need a letter grade or indicator scoring to understand their placement. There might be better things to add in to help with the indicators to see what they look like. A starting point needs to be determined. There will be a culture shock and emotional problems if something is changed when schools do not have a chance to grapple with the current problem. It appears the ATAC is trying to reconcile how and when to make schools aware of the problem. Maybe two surveys are needed.

A Committee Member shared that their fear is that the ATAC will develop a broad target and the schools cannot hit it because the ATAC is not pointing to anything. There are disagreements on policy and how to measure.

A Committee Member stated that changes need to happen one at a time. If too many changes are made, the ATAC won't know which change was the appropriate one to make.

Sean Smith requested that a future agenda item be what this would look like over a 6 month period. Do not desire schools to actually lose out on funding due to these transitional changes.

Jessica Mueller shared that the AATAC looked at the values for A, B, C, D, etc. The Committee Survey will be placed on the August agenda.

A Committee Member suggested that the ATAC be extremely aggressive and figure out proposed changes on a monthly basis to determine if the changes are good or bad. This way, they are focused one at a time.

Member Jason Piontkowski left the Committee Meeting at 2:44pm.

The Committee Members and Sean Smith discussed data. Multitrack cut scores is an option and can be mapped on paper. "Resources that the department let's us have" makes it feel like the community wants more data.

Member Jason Piontkowski returned to the Committee Meeting at 2:46pm.

Jessica Mueller and Sean Smith discussed timelines. Sometimes ADE can be the bottleneck. At the September ATAC Meeting, the cut scores will be on the agenda. For September and October, the cut scores will be the primary agenda item. Will spend some time on the data and make a recommendation. The ground work is being laid for these meetings.

2. Technical

A. UPDATED - Presentation and discussion on indicator scoring: Exploration of possible methodologies for establishing expected standards of performance for the indicators outlined in A.R.S. 15-241(G): 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 - UPDATED

To be considered at a future ATAC Committee Meeting.

i. Review of trend data: 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

3. Future Meeting Dates and Items for Future Agendas

Committee Members discussed the upcoming meeting schedule.

The Committee Meeting adjourned at 2:52pm.