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, July 1, 2024, at 09:30 A.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 9:20 A.M.

A copy of the agenda for the meeting is attached. The Committee reser ves 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 video conferencing is available by registering here: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nwzf0ZOYQTS8wdtWvcYuWw#/registration. 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.

<u>**Procedure for Submitting Public Comment:**</u>

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

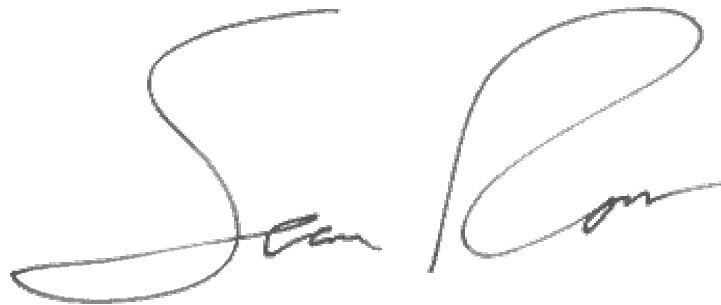**The deadline to submit a written comment will be Friday, June 28, 2024 at 12:00 PM.**

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.

Alternative Accountability Technical Advisory Committee

by:

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

1. Operational

Committee Meeting commenced at 9:37am.

Binky Michelle Jones, Chair
Mary Berg, Vice Chair
Kelly Powell, Committee Member
Sue Durkin, Committee Member
Wayne Tucker, Committee Member
Harriet Caruso, Committee Member
Kellie Burns, 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. No written comments were received. There are members of the public observing the committee meeting virtually.

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

Sean Smith, Chief Accountability Officer for the Arizona Department of Education, presented to the Committee. Preparations are being made to send public notices announcing indicator scoring in August. AATAC Committee Members are aware of the context that members of the public may not have. Hopeful that the survey will provide feedback on stakeholder's ideas on how to make the transition smoother.

Jessica Mueller, Research and Data Analyst for the State Board of Education, shared SBE only needs timelines vs. how to launch indicator scoring. This will be on the agenda in September.

The Committee Members and Sean Smith discussed how to make school leaders experts on this rollout so that they may be empowered to educate their school and their community. This feedback is to identify the blind spots in education and not for decision-making purposes. A suggestions was made to lean on the District Accountability Coordinators and cite state statute in the survey. Feedback recited so far will be summarized to present at a future AATAC Meeting. New survey questions proposed regarding "what is an indicator" and "what is an indicator score" in order to clarify how much education schools may need prior to rollout and cut scores are defined. Suggestion made to track who signs in to view their static files vs. usernames.

Jessica Mueller communicated that the recommendations for the initial rollout is for SY2024-25, but the Board has not taken action on this yet. Until then, the AATAC will communicate as much information as possible without burying schools in the details.

The Committee Members, Jessica Mueller, and Sean Smith discussed the proposed timeline. The context of the timeline is important since indicator scores have been law since 2016 or 2017. The hope is to create something better vs. just meeting state requirements. Providing the schools' data to the schools as early as possible will help schools to prepare for the

upcoming changes. With the upcoming SY2023-24 letter grades on the horizon, this is a large lift for ADE. Proposed timeline was presented. Hopeful that the survey draft will be ready within the next couple weeks. The survey draft can be emailed to the Committee Members. Hope to have responses ready to review by the August AATAC. Schools willbe working on their self reporting requirements, but the survey is not a heavy lift. Concern expressed about whether the survey should be fast tracked so that responses should be gathered in time for the August Board Meeting. Better to wait to ensure the survey is more clear. Questions for survey will be discussed at the next AATAC Meeting. Do not want the survey to suggest that responses would influence the Board's actions regarding indicators.

2. Technical

A. Study and discussion of AATAC member questions

i. Discussion on Persistence Rate Report

Sean Smith, Chief Accountability Officer for the Arizona Department of Education, shared that the persistence report was thought to be fixed, but it is not and needs to be corrected. Thanks extended to everyone who shared feedback. The providedinformation will assist in making it accurate. Very grateful for this assistance since it enables ADE to catch bugs in the code. The next step is a deep analysis.

Yassin Fahmy, Director of Accountability for the Arizona Department of Education, shared that there are some specific situations that need to be addressed and resolved.

Jessica Mueller, Research and Data Analyst for the State Board of Education, stated that static file is out. Some new questions will be rolled out.

Committee Members, Sean Smith, and Jessica Mueller discussed the next steps for the peristent report. The next round of errors will be more challenging to identify than the first round of errors. There has been great open communication and supportive understanding. The provided data has been helpful for stakeholders and schools. Even one school identifying an issue can help multiple other schools. This agenda item won't disappear off the agenda. This agenda item will be presented again in August.

ii. Grades 6-8 students in alternative schools: Transitional readiness

Jessica Mueller, Research and Data Analyst for the State Board of Education, some of the readiness factors were removed since they are harder to report and audit. Such as attendance and tardiness. The Set section had the least amount of change. Digital fluency replaced digital literacy. Guidance documents need to be created to define categories and ensure it matches its intent and purpose. A lot was discussed about student discipline in the Go section. This should be its own agenda item in a future meeting.

The Committee Members and Jessica Mueller discussed suspension. It was suggested to remove this from the readiness template. Suggestion made to replace it with a system of support since research indicates that students with lower suspension rates are more successful. Concerns voiced regarding the inclusion of this topic to disincentivize schools

from suspending students.

Sean Smith, Chief Accountability Officer for the Arizona Department of Education, stated that suspensions and interactions are done with the intent to help the student. Perhaps there should just be a check for consistency on a schoolwide level. For instance, if a certain group is being suspended more than others, that can be a problem. Research shows BIPOC students to be unfairly treated in ares like this.

The Committee Members, Sean Smith, and Jessica Mueller continued to discuss the topic of suspension. Some schools are not large enough to report good data. Suggestion made to create a bonus point out of this for schools with a PBIS type program or weighting the school's total suspensions since this data is gathered already. Suggestion made for a self reflection type prompt. This topic can fluctuate too much and there are multiple ways to interpret the data.

All Committee Members agreed to remove this indicator.

The Committee Members and Jessica Mueller discussed various topics within the template. "Go" means the student is ready to move on, although studies prove that holding students back does not help them. A lot of proficiency stuff is included in Go. Suggestion was made to clarify point values for each portion. For now, the point values wont be defined until stakeholder feedback can be collected. Suggested to include feedback from some ADE teams, communication colleges, school leaders, school counselors, school social workers, CTE, and other postsecondary education partners. Suggestion made to host a town hall type meeting for stakeholders representing grades 6-8. Tis would be helpful for anyone serving grades 6-8 in an alternative school. Some alternative high schools might be interested as well. Discussion regarding dates for a town hall in late September and October. A survey willbe used to narrow down possible dates and times.

The Committee Members discussed future agenda items.

Jessica Mueller shared that there have been multiple inquiries from middle schools and colleagues of committee members. Will determine which agenda item to assign this to. There might be an opportunity or elementary members to weight in on the middle school model.

The Committee took a break at 11:02am.
The Committee returned from the break at 11:10am.

B. 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

Jessica Mueller, Research and Data Analyst for the State Board of Education, stated that guidance is still being sought on methodology.

Sean Smith, Chief Accountability Officer for the Arizona Department of Education, said that only public information will be shared. If drilled down information is necessary, the Committee will need to go to Executive Session. After several months of discussion, it has become apparent that a lot of changes to the model are not desired since they will cause more problems. Everything will be exactly the same and each indicator will have a letter grade assigned to it. Although the indicators are meant to work together as a whole. When each indicator is separated, there is weirdness that is not seen when presented as a collective. Trying to continue with what has been done previously while also trying to make something new that works well. The average scores are defining points and the standard deviations have been used to define letter grades up and down. However, this approach provides mixed results. For instance, proficiency is wonky for alternative schools.

The Committee Members, Sean Smith, and Jessica Mueller discussed the proficiency data in detail with emphasis on how the data translates to letter grades and skews.

Sean Smith presented the graduation data. In traditional schools, the data is super skewed. The breakdowns are how one would expect them to be. The data is most reasonable with letter grades. A majority of the schools are Cs.

The Committee Members, Sean Smith, and Jessica Mueller discussed the graduation data. Suggestion made was to inquire about what school improvement would think of the data.

Sean Smith presented the CCRI data. There are no As. It is mathematically impossible to get an A since an A is defined as two standard deviations above the average. The data does not have room for two standard deviations above the average since the data is skewed.

The Committee Members, Sean Smith, and Jessica Mueller discussed the CCRI data. The Board will likely want a bell curve. Traditional schools look similar to this, but are not as extreme. CCRI is not currently helping schools like intended. There is no impact on the summative letter grade. All schools aim to get all these points. Suggestion to design the metric so it captures a range of student outcomes vs. all the student outcomes looking the same. CCRI is supposed to tell a lot of the letter grade story, but it isn't. The data will get worse if the schools who didnt submit are removed. It will result in a narrowing of the standard deviation and move some schools down. The Board needs to be appraised of this rationale and reasons for the changes made.

Sean Smith stated that every school should be able to earn an A, but it will take some delicate changes. First step is to collect data and divide into 3 of 4 meaningful buckets. The threshold for an A should not be set at perfection unless we want the same problems with proficiency. A threshold needs to be set that is not defined by perfection.

The Committee Members and Sean Smith continued to proficiency. A suggestion was made to use partial points with different weights to bump up the score. However, the issue is that the scores for minimally proficiency student needs two partially proficiency students to make up the loss in points. A suggestion was made to assign half points for partially. However, the data would lose the distinction between which students, and corresponding points, are for partially proficient vs. proficient.

Committee Members discussed various options to satisfy the federal requirement while also gaining a better data representation of how the students are performing.

Committee Members discussed the data for proficiency levels 2, 3, and 4.

Jessica Mueller stated that she will follow up with Data Governance to see if they have data for this topic.

The Committee Members and Sean Smith discussed potential alterations for SY2026-27. Suggestion made to wait until after the AATAC has the survey data.

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

A Committee Member shared that in the fall, they would appreciate a review of the self-reporting data for accountability to ensure all schools are set.

The Committee Meeting adjoined at 12:02pm.