AATAC Meeting Minutes 04/07/2025

1. **Operational**

Meeting commenced at: 9:33 AM

Binky Michelle Jones, Chair

Mary Berg, Vice Chair

Kellie Burns, Committee Member (virtual)

Kelly Powell, Committee Member (virtual) – arrived late at 9:54am

Sue Durkin, Committee Member

Wayne Tucker, Committee Member (virtual)

Harriet Caruso, Committee Member (virtual)

Kristi Glassmeyer, Committee Member

1. **Comments for the Record**

No written comments were received by the deadline. One comment was received after the deadline relating to an agenda item that will recur on a future meeting agenda.

1. **Update on On Track to Graduate submissions. 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.**

Chair Jones introduced this agenda item.

Committee Members and Sean Smith, Chief Accountability Officer for the Arizona Department of Education, discussed schools’ completion of On Track to Graduate Submissions and how follow-up will occur for schools that missed the deadline. Committee Members emphasized the need to focus on schools that are new to Alternative School Status. Committee Members asked if identifying a District Accountability Coordinator and a Superintendent/Charter Holder could be required as part of the Alternative School Status application.

Sean introduced Tobias Butler, Director of Accountability for the Arizona Department of Education.

Committee Members provided a reminder that the On Track to Graduate submission was only the initial submission but a final submission will be needed after the end of the school year. Sean noted that the deadlines are from a logistic standpoint to ensure data can be run effectively but the Accountability unit does everything they can to pull in data from late submissions.

Members asked if there could be an overall reminder about self-reported data that needs to be collected and will have future deadlines.

Accountability staff noted that there are 34 schools that are new and 9 that did not apply for alternative school status but previously had done so. Of the 34 new, some may not be truly new and may have been part of an appeals process from last year.

Committee Members and Jessica Mueller, Policy and Research Administrator for the Arizona State Board of Education, discussed the need to review the “school site memo” that was sent by School Finance.

Committee Members discussed the several different methods used to communicate information to alternative schools.

1. **Update on applications for alternative school designation submissions. 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.**

This item was included with the previous agenda item.

1. **Technical**
2. **ITEM REMOVED – Update on legislative session pertaining to A-F**

This agenda item was removed prior to the meeting.

1. **Discussion on criteria considered for alternative school status**

Chair Jones introduced this agenda item.

Jessica Mueller presented on this agenda item. Sean presented on this agenda item. Tobias presented on this agenda item. Committee Members had discussion about the requirements for an alternative school’s mission statement.

Committee Members and Sean had discussion on the student criteria for alternative school status. Committee Members referenced statute that notes alternative school status starts in 6th grade but concerns about students start before 6th grade.

Committee Members discussed adding homeless and foster care.

Sean and Tobias discussed the work that can be done to utilize machine learning with the data points ADE collects that would indicate a student is an alternative school student.

Committee Members discussed that not all schools want the alternative school status label.

Committee Members asked ADE to conduct analysis based on a variety of student data points.

1. **Discussion on graduation rate (student cohort year)**

Chair Jones introduced this agenda item.

Committee Members discussed a bill in the Arizona legislature related to how cohort year for special education students is considered in graduation rate calculations and potential consideration regarding alternative school students. The Committee Members would like to continue to monitor this bill.

1. **Presentation and discussion on proficiency indicator**

*The Committee took a break at 11:15am. The Committee returned at 11:23am.*

Chair Jones introduced this agenda item.

Sean presented on this agenda item and Committee Members discussed.

Committee Members noted that this analysis is based on the Indicator Scoring Analysis document from a prior meeting.

1. **Future Meeting Dates and Future Agenda Items**

The next meeting will take place on May 5th at the Arizona Department of Education North Building.

Meeting adjourned at 12:04am.