



Arizona State Board of Education

1700 W. Washington Street
Executive Tower, Suite 300
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
Phone: (602) 542-5057
Website: azsbe.az.gov



April 29, 2019

The Board's regular meeting on April 29, 2019 focused on two issues: Assessments and the recent lawsuit regarding sex education. The entire meeting can be viewed on the Board's [YouTube](#) page. Please note, beginning in May Board meetings will begin at 10:00 A.M.

Adoption of 5-Year Assessment Plan

The Board approved a [Five-Year Assessment Plan](#) that immediately addresses concerns raised by the federal Department of Education. It also puts the state on a path toward creating a new assessment for elementary students and adopting nationally recognized college entrance tests for high schoolers.

The plan has been in development since last year, but was accelerated after the U.S. Department of Education denied the state's request to allow schools to select from a menu of tests. To avoid losing federal support, the state has a May 31st deadline to show how it will remedy the situation.

The Five-Year Plan balances state and federal requirements. Year by year:

2018-2019 (Current School Year)

- No change. All high schools are administering tests as scheduled.

School Years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021

- In these two school years, all high school sophomores must take a renamed AzMERIT test covering math and English language arts. The test will replace the six end-of-course tests currently given to freshmen, sophomores and juniors.
- Results of the sophomore-level summative test will be compared to those students' eighth-grade AzMERIT results to measure academic growth for the high school accountability system.
- Schools may voluntarily administer an additional test from the state's Menu of Assessments. This additional test cannot replace the renamed AzMERIT or any other statewide assessment.
- Elementary school students will continue to take the renamed AzMERIT test, with Arizona educators leading efforts to refine and develop new questions.

Board Members:

President: Luke Narducci *Vice President:* Dr. Daniel Corr

Superintendent of Public Instruction: Kathy Hoffman

Calvin Baker • Jill Broussard • Christine Burton • Dr. Rita Cheng • Janice Mak • Michele Kaye • Armando Ruiz • Patricia Welborn

Executive Director: Alicia Williams



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School Year 2021-2022 and Beyond

- Elementary students will take a new statewide assessment, after it is field tested in 2020-2021; a step AzMERIT never received. The Board will explore whether there is a way to create a Menu of Assessments for elementary schools that complies with federal law and recent legislation.
- For high school students, the Board will choose a nationally recognized college entrance test that aligns with Arizona's standards. The vendor must offer a preparatory test that aligns to an 11th grade college entrance test. The college entrance test will be considered the statewide assessment.
- To comply with state law requiring schools be provided a Menu of Assessments, the Board will adopt a second option from a vendor that provides nationally recognized preparatory and college-entrance tests aligned with state standards.

PSAT/SAT and ACT Aspire/ACT are examples of preparatory tests and college entrance tests provided by a single vendor.

Equality Arizona Lawsuit

The Board opened rulemaking procedures on R7-2-303 to align sex education requirements with recent changes in state law. The rule change removes language that courses must "promote honor and respect for monogamous heterosexual marriage." A public hearing will be held the morning of May 20, 2019 at 8:00 A.M. in the Board room.

It is the final step in settling Equality Arizona vs. Hoffman, which challenged a state law banning AIDS/HIV instruction that "promotes a homosexual lifestyle." Superintendent Kathy Hoffman and each member of the Board of Education are named as defendants. The Legislature subsequently removed the challenged language from ARS 15-716, and Gov. Doug Ducey immediately signed the bill into law.

Future Meetings

The 2019 Board schedule is posted online. The next meeting is May 20, 2019. Again, please note that moving forward, Board meetings will begin at 10:00 A.M. Meeting materials may be found [here](#). You can also follow us on Twitter @AzBoardEd and on Facebook @azstateboard.

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