



**Arizona State Board of Education**  
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**April 27, 2021**

Below are highlights from the State Board of Education's April 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

### **Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) Handbook**

The Board adopted the ESA Handbook for the 2021-2022 school year. This is the first time the Board has adopted the handbook under the rules established late last year. The handbook, and other information regarding ESAs, can be found on the Department's website: <https://www.azed.gov/esa>.

### **Rulemaking Update**

The Board closed rulemaking on two rules: one creating a new special education certification endorsement and the other regarding teacher induction standards.

The new special education certification endorsement is for visually impaired and hearing impaired educators. The endorsement is modelled after a special education endorsement adopted in 2020 to help general education educators transition more seamlessly to special education.

The teacher inductions standards rule was adopted to comply with Proposition 208, approved by the voters in the 2020 general election. The rules establish the process for development and adoption of "mentoring and retention programming" which schools are required to provide to new classroom teachers. The mentoring and retention programming, or teacher induction standards, will be adopted by the Board at a subsequent meeting.

### **Arizona Online Instruction (AOI) Approvals**

In response to the increased need and interest for online instruction, the Board continues to approve district AOI applications on a near year-round basis. Districts interested in applying for the upcoming school year should submit applications as soon as possible. Information can be found here: <https://azsbe.az.gov/resources/arizona-online-instruction>.

### **2021 Meeting Schedule**

The Board's 2021 meeting schedule is set and provided on the Board's [homepage](#). The next Board meeting is scheduled for May 24, 2021.

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*President:* Lucas Narducci • *Vice President:* Dr. Daniel Corr  
*Superintendent of Public Instruction:* Kathy Hoffman  
Calvin Baker • Jill Broussard • Christine Burton • Michele Kaye  
Dr. Janice Mak • Dr. Robert Robbins • Armando Ruiz • Patricia Welborn  
*Executive Director:* Alicia Williams