



Arizona State Board of Education

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



June 22, 2020

The Board held a regular meeting on June 22, 2020. Below are highlights from the Meeting. Due to technical difficulties experienced during the meeting, Superintendent Hoffman's report is included in the [Board materials](#) under 1B.

Statewide Assessment

The Arizona State Board of Education today adopted new statewide assessments pursuant to the Board's 5-Year Assessment Plan.

Beginning in 2022, third through eighth graders will take a test developed with NCS Pearson. High school students will take the ACT or SAT, at the discretion of the school district or charter school. The ACT is provided in partnership with NCS Pearson. The Arizona Department of Education will work with the federal government to receive approval for this assessment choice in high school.

These new tests replace AzM2, formerly known as AzMERIT in English language arts and mathematics. The science assessment, AzSCI, will first be administered in Spring 2022.

Before administration of the new assessments, the state will work to acclimate schools, teachers, parents, and students to the new tests; time not provided when AzMERIT was adopted six years ago. The Board and the Arizona Department of Education will host parent focus groups, field test the new assessments, facilitate webinars and workshops for teachers and administrators, and conduct additional outreach to ensure schools are ready to administer the new assessments.

The Arizona Department of Education will provide the award selection to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee for review and begin working with the federal government on approval.

Empowerment Scholarship Account Program Rules

Pursuant to SB 1224, the Board formally started the rulemaking process for the Empowerment Scholarship Account Program. The first draft of the rules were developed with stakeholders and ESA Parents. A public hearing on the rules will be held on July 13th. The Board may adopt the rules as early as the September 28th Board Meeting.

President: Lucas Narducci

Vice President: Dr. Daniel Corr

Superintendent of Public Instruction: Kathy Hoffman

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Public comments on the ESA rules can be submitted to esafeedback@azsbe.az.gov and updates on the rulemaking process can be found here: <https://azsbe.az.gov/empowerment-scholarship-account-esa-program>.

School Closure Exit Survey

The School Closure exit survey was scheduled to close at 5:00 P.M. on June 22, 2020. The Board will keep the survey open for an additional two weeks and send reminders to the schools that have not submitted. The Board is analyzing the initial results but based on an early review of the responses, the top three issues encountered during the school closure were internet connectivity, student engagement and instructional device availability while a considerable amount of respondents reported that education flexibility/ability, staff communication, nutritional support and caregiver involvement went well.

More analysis will be provided following the close of the survey.

Upcoming Meeting

The Board's next regularly scheduled meeting is August 21, 2020. Depending on guidelines from public health officials the Board may be able to hold this meeting in person rather than telephonic. Additional information on the format of the August Board Meeting can be found when the agenda and notice is posted [here](#).

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