



Arizona State Board of Education
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June 28, 2021

Below are highlights from the State Board of Education's June 28th Meeting.

Menu of Assessments

The Board did not approve SAT for the Menu of Assessments for the 2021-2022 school year. This means all schools will administer the ACT Aspire and ACT in high school as the statewide assessment.

In June 2020, the Board awarded ACT, in partnership with NCS Pearson, the contract for the statewide assessment beginning in the 2021-2022 school year. As part of the 5-Year Assessment Plan, the Board intended for the nationally recognized college exam that failed to win the bid for the statewide assessment, in this case, SAT, to be on the Menu of Assessments (Menu). This would have allow schools to administer either the ACT or the SAT to high school students.

College Board decided in January 2021 to remove the essay portion from the SAT. In order to be federally compliant, the state needs to assess writing. Rather than risk federal funds again (in 2019 the U.S. Department of Education placed Arizona on "high-risk status" due to its assessment system and threatened to withhold hundreds of millions of dollars of federal funds) the Board decided to not approve the SAT for the Menu.

Again, this means all schools will administer the ACT and ACT Aspire in high school. If College Board offers an essay portion, the Board indicated it would consider approving the SAT for the Menu. For more information, please contact testing@azed.gov.

Rulemaking Update

Five rulemaking packages are open with the Board at various stages in the process and one package was closed at the June 28th Meeting. The rules may be reviewed [here](#). Public comments are accepted at inbox@azsbe.az.gov or may be provided at a public hearing or Board meeting.

- *R7-2-303 relating to Sex Education*: On April 20, 2021, the Governor issued an Executive Order directing the Board to adopt or amend rules relating to schools' adoption of sex education. The Executive Order also requires the Board to report on its rulemaking efforts by June 30, 2021. The Board adopted the rules as presented.
- *R7-2-205, R7-2-607, Article 7 and Article 13 relating to Educator Discipline*: The Board is charged with imposing discipline on certified educators for engaging in immoral or unprofessional conduct. HB 2023 subjects noncertified educators to discipline as well. The bill also made other changes to the educator discipline process. The Board

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opened rules to implement HB 2023. The Board may adopt the rules as early as the August 27, 2021 Meeting.

- *R7-2-317 relating to the State Seal of Biliteracy:* Statute allows schools to affix a seal on students' diplomas if they demonstrate proficiency in one or more language other than English. SB 1403 provides more pathways to students to demonstrate English language arts proficiency. The rule opened by the Board allows students to meet that requirement through the statewide assessment, the ACT or SAT, an advanced placement assessment or an end-of-course assessment administered in a dual enrollment or concurrent enrollment course. The Board may adopt the rules as early as the August 27, 2021 Meeting.
- *R7-2-809 and R7-2-810 relating to the emergency administration of epinephrine and inhalers:* Statute allows schools to administer epinephrine and inhalers to students in emergency situations under a standing order from specific medical professionals. SB 1016 added naturopaths to the list of medical professionals who may issue the standing order. The rule opened by the Board conforms to the legislation. The Board may adopt the rules as early as the August 27, 2021 Meeting.
- *R7-2-1001, R7-2-1069, R7-2-1070, R7-2-1141, relating to School District Procurement:* SB 1056 was signed by the Governor earlier this year to make changes to school district procurement. The Board opened rules to conform to these changes regarding water and energy savings measures and services. The Board indicated additional changes would be made to remove a requirement for qualified providers to cover the costs of a study. A public hearing will be held on July 28, 2021 at noon. The Board may adopt the rules as early as the August 27, 2021 Meeting.
- *R7-2-615 relating to the Gifted Education Endorsement:* At the recommendation of the Arizona Department of Education's gifted team and the Board's Certification Advisory Committee, the Board opened rules make changes to the Gifted Education Endorsement. Specifically, the rules removes the pathway that allows educators to obtain the endorsement solely through teaching experience and removes requirements for applicants to complete nine semester hours of upper division coursework.

2021 Meeting Schedule

The Board's 2021 meeting schedule is provided on the Board's [homepage](#). The next Board meeting is scheduled for August 27, 2021. The Board indicated it is seeking approval from the state to transition to in-person meetings. Information will be provided with the notice and agenda for the August meeting.

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