



## Arizona State Board of Education

1700 W. Washington Street  
Executive Tower, Suite 300  
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Phone: (602) 542-5057  
Website: [azsbe.az.gov](http://azsbe.az.gov)



### August 21, 2020

The Board held a regular meeting on August 21, 2020. Below are highlights from the Meeting.

#### **School Safety Program**

In 2019, the Legislature appropriated additional funds to the School Safety Program and expanded eligible positions to include certified school counselors and social workers. In December 2019, the Board approved a new 3-year cohort of schools for the School Safety Program. Not all schools that applied for the Program met the cut score and were placed on a wait list. The approved cohort had until August 2020 to fill the positions they were awarded or their funds would be forfeited.

At the August 21, 2020 meeting, the Board approved the next highest scoring schools on the wait list.

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

To meet the increased need for online learning in the 2020-2021 school year, the Board established an abridged AOI application process in May 2020. The abridged process dictated schools are “provisionally approved” for the 2020-2021 school year if they are either: 1) expanding the grade levels served; or 2) score at or above the cut score on the narrative portion of the evaluation. To be approved beyond the 2020-2021 school year, schools are required to score at or above the cut score on both the narrative and demonstration portions of the evaluation and be approved by the Board.

The Board received 67 applications from school districts to establish or expand AOIs. To date, the Board has fully approved 17 new AOI applications; provisionally approved 22 new AOI applications; and provisionally approved 23 AOIs to expand the grades served. 4 districts withdrew their applications and 1 district’s outcome is pending a full evaluation.

#### **AIMS Science**

The Board took advantage of a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education to eliminate the testing of AIMS Science in the 2020-2021 school year. AIMS Science was scheduled to be administered in 4<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade for the final time before being replaced by AzSCI. Simultaneously, AzSCI was scheduled to be census field tested in 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade. With the action taken by the Board, schools can now focus on the new assessment, AzSCI, which is aligned to the new standards. AIMS Science is now retired.

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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  
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**Executive Director:** Alicia Williams



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### **School Closure Analysis**

The Board, in collaboration with NAU and ASU, surveyed schools following the Spring closures. The report on the survey can be found here:

<file:///C:/Users/154534/Downloads/Exit%20Survey%20Report%2008.19.2020.pdf>.

### **Holocaust Instruction**

The Board is considering an amendment to the minimum course of study to highlight the importance of Holocaust Instruction beginning in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Instruction on the Holocaust and other genocides is already required as part of the new Social Studies standards so this action is not a change in policy; rather the Board hopes this will elevate its importance. The Arizona Department of Education is working with the Phoenix Holocaust Association, the Arizona Jewish Historical Society and others to provide schools and teachers with the tools to provide this instruction.

### **9/10 Grade Test in 2021-2022 School Year**

As part of the new statewide assessment system to be implemented in the 2021-2022 school year, there will be a college entrance exam administered in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade. The Board selected ACT as the statewide assessment but will also offer SAT as an option for schools to administer in lieu of ACT. The Board committed to pursuing an earlier assessment in high school that is aligned to the 11<sup>th</sup> grade assessment. For ACT that is ACT Aspire and for SAT that is the PSAT. The Board received input from the field and psychometricians on whether to administer these "pre-assessments" in the 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade beginning in the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board acknowledged valid arguments for both grade levels but determined to administer the "pre-assessments" in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade beginning in the 2021-2022 school year to provide an additional year to prepare for the 11<sup>th</sup> grade assessment and more effectively calculate growth from 8<sup>th</sup> and to 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) Rules Update**

The Board updated draft rules governing the ESA Program and may adopt the rules as soon as the September 28, 2020 Board Meeting. A public hearing will be held on August 31, 2020 at noon to collect additional public comment.

### **Upcoming Meeting**

The Board's next regularly scheduled meeting is September 28, 2020. 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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