



## Arizona State Board of Education

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



**September 29, 2020**

The Board held a regular meeting on September 28, 2020. Below are highlights from the Meeting.

### **Sandra Day O'Connor Civics Celebration Day**

September 25<sup>th</sup> was the inaugural Sandra Day O'Connor Civics Celebration Day during which a majority of instruction in public schools is devoted to civics. The Board adopted a list of recommended resources relating to civics education that align to the academic standards and adopted a process for schools to recommend additions to the list. The Arizona Department of Education lists the resources, and more, [here](#).

### **Arizona Online Instruction (AOI) 2021-2022 Application Window**

The window to apply for an AOI for operation beginning in the 2021-2022 school year is now open. The window closes October 31, 2020. Applications must be received by October 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 P.M. to be considered. Due to the volume of AOI applications reviewed earlier this year, the Board may request schools cover at least a portion of the costs of the evaluation. For schools that were provisionally approved for the 2020-2021 school year, do *not* submit an application. Instead, please schedule a time for the demonstration with the contact at Rio Salado.

### **Rulemaking Update**

The Board has three rules open at various points in the process. Below is a quick summary. Public comments are always accepted at [inbox@azsbe.az.gov](mailto:inbox@azsbe.az.gov).

- Empowerment Scholarship Account Program: The Board received another update on the rulemaking process. State legislation requires the Board to adopt rule by November 1<sup>st</sup> which puts a likely adoption date at the October 26, 2020 Meeting. Additional changes to the draft rule are expected.
- Holocaust and other Genocide Instruction: The Board received an update on the rulemaking process and will likely adopt the rule as currently drafted at the October 26, 2020 Meeting. As a reminder this rule is a codification and reinforcement of instruction requirements already embedded in the academic standards.
- SPED Endorsement for Visually or Hearing Impaired: The Board opened rulemaking on a certification endorsement to allow general education teachers to more seamlessly transition to teaching visually impaired or hearing impaired students. The endorsement is modelled after an endorsement adopted earlier this year. A virtual public hearing is scheduled for October 21 at noon with adoption as early as the

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*Superintendent of Public Instruction:* Kathy Hoffman  
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December 14, 2020 Meeting.

### **2020-2021 Assessment and Accountability**

Federal and state laws require Arizona to adopt and implement a statewide assessment to measure student achievement in English language arts, mathematics and science. To date, the U.S. Department of Education has indicated it will not issue waivers to statewide assessment requirements like it did in the Spring of 2020.

State law requires ADE, with approval from the Board, to establish an A-F Accountability System and award letter grades by November 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

Understanding that these requirements are currently still in place, and in light of the impact of COVID-19 on schools in the 2020-2021 school year, the Board took the following steps:

1. Shortened the length of the statewide assessments in the Spring of 2021.
2. Directed ADE to use the same test from 2019 for grades 3-8 to more accurately compare pre- and post-COVID-19 student achievement and help the state better evaluate the stability of the data.
3. Began an analysis, with its technical advisory committees and ADE, of the data used to calculate A-F letter grades. The analysis, modeled after national work, considers each component of the Accountability System in light of COVID-19 in the following areas: completeness, consistency, impact and practicality. The analysis will guide the Board's position on the viability of the A-F Accountability System in the 2020-2021 school year.

Finally, the window for self-reported data (CCRI, On-Track to Graduate, Credits Earned) from the 2019-2020 school year will be reopened and, for the 2020-2021 school year, the AIMS Science bonus point will be replaced with an AzSCI percent tested bonus point. A reminder that this action is necessary due to the elimination of AIMS Science in the 2020-2021 school year to reduce testing and retire an antiquated assessment.

### **Upcoming Meeting**

The Board's next regularly scheduled meeting is October 26, 2020. Additional information on the format of the October Board Meeting can be found when the agenda and notice is posted [here](#).

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