



Arizona State Board of Education

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The Arizona State Board of Education today adopted new statewide assessments that will better measure students' proficiency and college and career readiness.

Beginning in 2022, third through eighth graders will take a test developed with NCS Pearson. High school students will take the ACT, provided in partnership with NCS Pearson. School district and charter school leaders will have the discretion to administer the SAT instead of the ACT. 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. Required by federal and state law, they are a valuable part of the larger state and local assessment system. Locally selected and administered tests measure a student's progress throughout the year. These statewide assessments, which set high expectations for students, are summative assessments that measure and evaluate student learning at the end of the school year.

WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT THE NEW ASSESSMENTS

- Most test questions in grades 3 through 8 will be developed by Arizona educators with Arizona students in mind. In contrast, initial AzMERIT questions were developed and owned by the testing vendor.
- Using a more comprehensive approach, the new English language arts assessment will better measure third grade reading ability, a high-stakes measure that determines whether students move on to fourth grade.
- With the help of parents and educators, the state will develop a more user-friendly report of assessment scores.
- The ACT (and SAT if approved by the federal government and selected by the school district or charter school) provides high quality, nationally recognized college entrance exams to all high school students at no cost to the students or the schools, while measuring students' college and career readiness.
- The new assessments replace AzM2 in English language arts and mathematics. The science assessment, AzSCI, will first be administered in Spring 2022.

WHAT'S NEXT

Students will begin taking the new statewide assessments in Spring 2022. This interim period provides schools, teachers, parents, and students time to acclimate to the new tests; time not provided when AzMERIT was adopted six years ago.

President: Lucas Narducci • *Vice President:* Dr. Daniel Corr
Superintendent of Public Instruction: Kathy Hoffman
Calvin Baker • Jill Broussard • Christine Burton • Dr. Rita Cheng
Michele Kaye • Janice Mak • Armando Ruiz • Patricia Welborn
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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 will work with the federal government on approval.

Personal student data will continue to be protected by the state through state and federal law including A.R.S. 15-741; 15-1041 through 15-1045, Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), and the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA).

For questions, please email:
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