



Arizona State Board of Education

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August 30, 2017

On August 28, 2017, the Board addressed a range of issues including the A-F Accountability System, the Early Literacy Grant Program and proposed rules.

Key highlights are summarized below:

A-F School Accountability

The Board adopted a revised timeline for traditional schools' A-F letter grades to allow for refinements to the A-F Accountability System and to allow the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) to validate the data. The refinements address growth and graduation rate calculations.

The revised timeline is as follows:

- **July 21** – Cut off for verifying data in AzEDS by local education agencies and charter schools, calculating self-reporting college and career readiness (CCR) data and reporting total points earned
- **August 4** – Board convenes to consider business rules and new schools, small schools and schools with unique configurations
- **August 18** – Board considers A-F modeling data and directs the Accountability Advisory Group to recommend minor refinements to the traditional A-F Accountability System regarding student growth and graduation calculations
- **August 28** – Board adopts an extended and modified A-F timeline and seeks additional refinements to the traditional A-F Accountability System regarding student growth
- **September 5** - Board convenes at a special meeting to review recommendations regarding the traditional A-F Accountability System. Additionally, the Board adopts a timeline for an A-F Accountability System for Arizona Online Instruction and Alternative Schools
- **September 22** – Board convenes in a study session to review the traditional A-F Accountability System with validated data
- **September 25** – Board convenes at its regular meeting to set cut scores for the traditional A-F Accountability System
- **Week of September 25** – Letter grades issued to the traditional K-8, 9-12 local education agencies and charter schools, subject to embargo
- **October 9** – Embargo lifted for schools; traditional letter grades publicly released to all, including the media
- **October – November** – Review appeals of traditional letter grades
- **November – December** – Review impact data for enhancements to the A-F Accountability System

*NOTE: The Board will address the timeline for Alternative Schools and Arizona Online Instruction at its September 5th meeting.

Board Members: **President: Tim Carter** **Vice President: Lucas Narducci**
Superintendent of Public Instruction: Diane Douglas
Calvin Baker **Dr. Rita H. Cheng** **Janice Mak** **Michele Kaye**
Charles Schmidt **Jared Taylor** **Dr. Daniel Corr** **Patricia Welborn**
Executive Director: Dr. Karol Schmidt



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The Board also approved a process for the approval of industry-based credentials and certifications related to the A-F Accountability System. Industry certifications and credentials are included within the College and Career Ready Index of the Accountability System which is a new feature. The approval process will ensure that the certificates included in the Accountability System are widely recognized by industry, align to Career and Technical Education standards and reflect jobs and occupations which are in demand.

As we approach the rollout of the A-F letter grades, the Board will send communications to local education agencies and the public, as well as post information on our [website](#), to help stakeholders understand the A-F Accountability System.

Early Literacy Grants

The Board approved the [policies and procedures](#) for the Early Literacy Grant Program at its August 28th meeting. The Grant Program was established by the Legislature earlier this year and provides \$8 million in grant funding to schools with at least 90% of their students eligible for free and reduced lunch. Applications are due to ADE by November 1, 2017. More information on the Grant Program, including which schools are eligible for funding, can be found [here](#).

Rulemaking

[HB 2620](#), passed in 2016, authorizes the Board to fix an additional fee of between \$10 and \$20 to evaluate the renewals of certificates. The Board opened rulemaking to establish a \$20 evaluation fee for the renewal of a certificate. If approved by the Board, the new fee for the renewal of a certificate will be \$40, which includes an existing \$20 application fee. A technical change is also included in the proposed rule that conforms to the current practice of accepting credit card payments. Click [here](#) to find the proposed rules.

The Board will hold a public hearing on the rules in late September or early October. Public comments can also be submitted to inbox@azsbe.az.gov.

Contact and Outreach

The Board is now livestreaming its activities. To view current or previous meetings, click on the red play icon on the upper right corner of our website.

You can also follow the Board on Twitter @AzBoardEd or visit our Facebook page to stay up to date on the latest Board actions.

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