



Arizona State Board of Education

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PHOENIX - The State Board of Education (SBE) today posted preliminary school year 2016-2017 letter grades on its website.

A number of factors have led the SBE to post preliminary letter grades. Since the adoption of the A-F School Accountability Plan, the SBE has determined the federal Every Student Succeeds Act requires revisions to the Plan, including the removal of science data from proficiency measures. Also, the College and Career Readiness Indicator must be revised to include *all* seniors, not just graduating seniors. Most importantly, the 2016-2017 A-F Accountability Plan is a new plan that must include additional time for field validation and data review.

Preliminary letter grades are posted in one of three categories:

| Category | Designation |
|------------------|---|
| A, B, C, D, or F | School has received a preliminary letter grade based on initial calculations using the currently adopted methodologies. |
| Under Review | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School that has timely filed an appeal; and School with a non-typical school configuration. <p>On October 23, 2017, the SBE will discuss potential methodologies to apply to letter grades for schools with non-typical K-8 or 9-12 school configurations.</p> |
| NR (not rated) | School is not rated due to insufficient data, primarily related to <i>n</i> counts. |

In its September 25, 2017 Board Meeting, the SBE initiated a review process that included the use of public comment and school feedback as well as the creation of a new standing Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Members of the committee will report directly to the SBE and these members will have expertise in data analysis related to K-12 student achievement from all types of school configurations.

In the next three months, the Board will engage in an iterative process with the TAC to conduct independent analyses of data, based on public input, for potential revisions to the A-F Accountability Plan. At the December Board meeting, the SBE will provide policy and technical guidance to the TAC for modeling needed to finalize Plan revisions. Final letter grades for school year 2016-2017 will be subsequently issued and a timeline for appeals of the final letter grades will be announced.

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