

AUDIENCE SPECIFIC MESSAGES

PARENTS

New Test to Replace AIMS

Did you know that last school year was the final year for AIMS in reading, writing and math? This year it will be replaced with AzMERIT (Arizona's Measurement of Educational Readiness to Inform Teaching).

The assessment will reflect what students are learning and teachers are teaching in our classrooms today - no changes are needed to our standards or curricula. The test will be unique to Arizona and Arizona educators and education experts will be involved in developing questions..

Although testing is never fun, assessments can be effective tools to support your child's learning. They can tell you and your child's teacher if your child is on track to succeed or if he/she needs to spend additional time learning a topic.

Students in third grade through high school will begin taking the new tests this spring. For high school students, the new assessments will be given at the end of English and math courses, similar to a final exam. High school students WILL NOT have to pass the tests to graduate from high school.

IMPORTANT THINGS PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

- **Who takes the tests?** Arizona students in public district and charter schools in third grade through high school will begin taking the tests this spring in reading, writing and math. For high school students, the new assessments will be given at the end of their courses, similar to a final exam.
- **Will my child have to pass it to graduate from high school?** No. Passing the new assessments is not a graduation requirement.
- **Will my child be able to get into college or keep his GPA?** Most likely there will not be an impact to student grades with the assessment this year. The State Board of Education will be working on this as an option, but has not made an official decision at this point.
- **How will my child take the test?** School districts and charter schools can choose to administer the assessment via pencil/paper or on a computer.
- **Will my child's information be protected?** Your child's test data is protected by a [number of state and federal laws](#). Personal student data has never been, and never will be, shared with the federal government.
- **Will my child's scores look different than before?** Yes, you should expect that the scores will be different from the AIMS test. They may also be lower than what you've seen previously because the new tests set a higher benchmark for student success. Students and teachers will both need time to adjust to the new assessments. But with time and with our support, we know Arizona students will do well.

There are still a number of details that need to be determined about how the test will be administered at your child's school and how the test scores will be used for students, teachers and schools. As these details are discussed, you will have opportunities to be engaged in the conversation and to have your voice heard.

[Click here to learn more and to download resources to help your child succeed.](#)

EDUCATORS

New Test to Replace AIMS

The State Board of Education selected AzMERIT (Arizona's Measurement of Educational Readiness to Inform Teaching) as the new assessment to replace the AIMS test in reading, writing and math. The

test will be administered by the American Institutes for Research (AIR), a private, not-for-profit test vendor, and will be overseen by Arizona. The new tests will be given this spring to students in third grade through high school.

The assessment will reflect what students are learning and teachers are teaching in our classrooms today - no changes are needed to our standards or curricula. The test will be unique to Arizona and will engage Arizona educators and education experts will be involved in developing questions..

Now that the assessment has been selected, the Arizona Department of Education is going to begin working with public district and charter schools to determine the details of implementing the tests this year, including the testing window, whether the test will be delivered via paper/pencil or online, trainings for test administrators, and sharing sample tests and questions, among others.

There will also be opportunities for educators to weigh in on the development of the assessment. ADE has shared an application for educators who have an interest to be involved. [Find out more here.](#)

The State Board of Education will be discussing the potential of holding teachers, schools and students harmless for accountability measures while baseline data is collected from the new assessment at their December meeting. As these details are discussed, you will have an opportunity to be involved and to have your voice heard.

[Read this short blog to learn more about the new assessment.](#)

BUSINESS/COMMUNITY LEADERS

New Test to Replace AIMS

There's no question - the quality of our education system directly impacts the strength of our economy. When education thrives, Arizona can build a stronger economy and a better quality of life for all of us.

In an ongoing effort to improve education in Arizona, the State Board of Education has selected AzMERIT (Arizona's Measurement of Educational Readiness to Inform Teaching) as the new assessment for Arizona students. The test will be administered by the American Institutes for Research (AIR), a private, not-for-profit test vendor, and will be overseen and controlled by Arizona. The new tests replace AIMS in reading, writing and math. They will be given to Arizona students in 3rd grade through high school for the first time this spring.

The test will be unique to Arizona and will be aligned to what students are learning in the classroom - no changes are needed to our existing standards or curricula.

The aim of the test is to provide parents more meaningful information to know if their children are on track to succeed and to give teachers another important tool to support student learning. AIMS encouraged too much teaching to the test and did not give an accurate measure of what students are learning in the classroom today.

As business and community leaders, it is important for us to know about this so we can continue to champion a world-class education for all Arizona students. We can do that by sharing this information with our employees, many of whom are parents, and in using our collective voices to support teachers and students as they transition to the new tests.

[Read this short blog from Expect More Arizona to learn more about the new assessment.](#)