

Accountability

What is accountability?

Accountability helps ensure students are learning what they should be learning, teachers are teaching what they should be teaching, and schools are providing appropriate supports to students and teachers. The results of AzMERIT will be included in accountability measures. These measures provide important information to students, parents, educators, and the community.

What accountability measures are there in Arizona?

Student level accountability measures include the Grade 3 “Move on When Reading” requirement and the high school End-of-Course testing requirement.

Teacher and school level accountability measures include teacher and principal evaluations as well as public school A-F Letter Grades.

What is the third grade “Move on When Reading” requirement?

“Move on When Reading” is a state law requiring Grade 3 students to demonstrate a minimum level of reading ability to be promoted to Grade 4. Students will demonstrate their reading ability on the reading portion of AzMERIT. The score necessary for promotion to Grade 4 has not yet been identified. The first year of AzMERIT results will not be available until after the start of the 2015-2016 school year. Any student promoted to Grade 4 without a sufficiently high AzMERIT Grade 3 reading score will be entitled to receive additional reading support. More information is available at www.azed.gov/mowr.

What is the high school End-of-Course testing requirement?

High school students are now required to participate in End-of-Course testing when enrolled in certain required English and mathematics courses. Students will not be required to pass the End-of-Course tests for graduation. They must still earn the minimum number of English and mathematics credits in order to graduate.

The State Board of Education will decide how End-of-Course test scores will be included in course grades and if they will appear on student transcripts.

Students graduating from high school on or before December 31, 2016 are still required to pass AIMS HS Writing, Reading, and Mathematics.

How will AzMERIT be used in the evaluation of teachers and principals?

Once the Board decides upon a timeline, a portion of the evaluation of teachers and principals will be based on how well students perform on AzMERIT. Evaluations must also include the educational growth that students show over time. Districts and charters may also include other data in evaluations.

How will AzMERIT be used in the A-F Letter Grades for schools?

The A-F Letter Grades that schools receive are largely based on how students perform on the statewide achievement test. The Board is currently discussing how AzMERIT results will be used to calculate A-F Letter Grades.

