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**Arizona Department of Education  
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction Diane M. Douglas**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**AIMS High School Graduation Requirement Repealed; No Testing Required February 23-25**

(Phoenix, AZ - Feb. 20, 2015) - Today Senate Bill 1191 was signed into law, immediately ending the AIMS high school graduation requirement. This action means that any students scheduled to take one or more sections of the AIMS test next week will no longer be required to do so.

"I congratulate the Legislature and Governor Ducey for removing this last vestige of high stakes testing," said Superintendent of Public Instruction Diane Douglas. "I hope this decision relieves much of the stress that parents and their children face when a high stakes test determines whether or not a student can graduate from high school. High academic standards and tests that provide information and accountability are very important, but placing all the responsibility and stress on individual students for the success of our educational system is unfair."

Until today, students had to pass the reading, writing and mathematics portions of the AIMS test in order to receive a high school diploma. The requirement was previously set to expire Dec. 31, 2016.

Testing will still be available next week for those students wishing to take AIMS for scholarship eligibility or other personal reasons. Parents or families with questions about testing availability in these situations should contact their student's school.

Future planned administrations of the test will be canceled.

**End**