

STATE BOARD MEETING DATE: May 19, 2014

SUBJECT: Presentation, discussion and possible consideration of matters related to the proposed Request for Proposals (RFP) for a new statewide assessment.

SUBMITTED BY: Christine Thompson, Executive Director

MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW: May 1, 2014

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Arizona State Board of Education is responsible for prescribing the minimum course of study for public schools, adopting statewide academic standards, and selecting a statewide assessment to measure the Arizona academic standards. These Board adopted measures are considered by governing boards and charter schools as they fulfill their local responsibility to prescribe curricula, criteria for the promotion of students, and any course of study or competency requirements greater than those prescribed by the Board.

ARS §15-741 requires the Board to adopt and implement a test to measure pupil achievement. A new assessment aligned with the fully implemented Arizona College and Career Ready Standards must be selected for use in School Year 2014-2015. The current AIMS test, which is not aligned to the existing standards, will be used for the last time in Spring 2014, as the state contract is expiring.

In late 2013, the Board issued a Request for Information to identify existing assessment options that may meet Arizona's needs. The Board received six responses to the Request for Information.

On March 6, 2014, incorporating feedback from parents, educators, and business and community leaders, the Board adopted a statement of values to be used as the basis for the requirements of the Request for Proposals for the selection of the new statewide assessment.

Through an independent procurement process, the Board will select a rigorous, cost efficient, statewide assessment aligned with the Arizona's educational priorities, that will measure student learning and inform the State's accountability measures (A-F School Letter Grades, Move on When Reading, Principal and Teacher Evaluations).

In order to have the new statewide assessment in place for the 2014-15 School Year, the Board expects to issue the Request for Proposal for the selection of the new statewide assessment in Spring 2014, and intends to complete the procurement process in Summer 2014.

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(2) and (3), the Board may vote to convene in executive session to review confidential information and/or for discussion or consultation for legal advice.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: [] INFORMATION [X] ACTION/DESCRIBED

BELOW:

The Board may provide guidance and consider of matters related to the proposed Request for Proposals (RFP) for a new statewide assessment. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(2) and (3), the Board may vote to convene in executive session to review confidential information and/or for discussion or consultation for legal advice.

ATTACHMENTS: YES [] NO[X]