

**ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT APPROVAL** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATE BOARD MEETING DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

**SUBJECT:** Presentation, discussion, and possible action to approve the plan to administer the NCSC field test to all students who qualify for an alternate assessment instead of administering the AIMS A

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**SUBMITTED BY:** Leila Williams/Irene Hunting

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**MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW:**

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

- Students with significant cognitive disabilities participate in the alternate assessment AIMS A. These students make up approximately 1% of the student population.
- The AIMS A test will be transitioned to a new alternate assessment aligned to Arizona's Common Core Standards.
- There are two consortia creating alternate assessments aligned to the Common Core Standards.
- Arizona is a member state of Alternate Assessment Consortia National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC) and has been very actively involved in the development of the NCSC tests.
- The NCSC tests will be field tested in spring 2014.
- Due to the very small number of students who participate in the alternate assessment (less than 8000 Arizona students), Arizona would like to include all of these students in the complete NCSC field test.
- Students who participate in the NCSC field test will not receive scores but will receive reports that provide narrative information for parents/teachers/IEP teams.
- Per a June 2013 announcement from USDOE, states who are field testing can receive a waiver for assessment date for the 2013-2014 school year in order to avoid double testing.
- Since the administration of an alternate assessment (AIMS A or NCSC) is very intensive, ADE would like to avoid double testing these students in spring 2014 by not administering the AIMS A in Reading or Mathematics.
- AIMS A in Science would still be administered in Grades 4, 8, and 10.
- Students who participate in the alternate assessment would still be included in A-F letter grades to the extent possible.

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

Approval of the plan to administer the NCSC field test to all students who qualify for an alternated assessment instead of administering the AIMS A Reading and Mathematics in Spring 2013

**ATTACHMENTS: YES [ ] NO [ ]**