

DRAFT

Authority and Need for New Assessment

ARS §15-741 requires the State Board of Education (the Board) to adopt and implement a test to measure pupil achievement. A new assessment in math and English language arts must be selected for use in School Year 2014-2015, as the contract for the current AIMS test is expiring.

The Board is committed to adopting a new statewide assessment that is best aligned with Arizona's values and needs. Incorporating feedback from education, business and community leaders, the Board has identified the following key values to consider during the selection of a new statewide assessment.

These key values will be the basis for the requirements of the Request for Proposals (RFP) to be issued as part of the mandated procurement process. The Board intends to issue the RFP in Spring 2014, and award a contract for the new assessment before the start of the 2014-15 school year. Further information about the Board's process can be found at <http://www.azed.gov/state-board-education/new-statewide-assessment/>.

Key Values to Consider During the Selection of a New Statewide Assessment

It is essential that the new statewide assessment:

- Align to the education standards adopted by the Arizona State Board of Education
- Supply criterion referenced summative assessments for grades 3 through 8, and criterion referenced end of course assessments in identified high school math and English language arts courses
- Measure student learning in a rigorous manner and inform the State's accountability measures (A-F School Letter Grades, Move on When Reading, Principal and Teacher Evaluations)
- Provide valid, reliable and timely data to educators and policy makers to advance the academic success of Arizona students
- Deliver timely information to guide instruction and provide educators, students, and families with critical tools to improve student achievement
- Measure student progress toward college and career readiness, and effectively communicate individual progress to students, parents and educators
- Allow national comparisons of school and student achievement
- Use 21st Century technology – as available infrastructure allows – to help introduce students to the tools they will use throughout their careers
- Involve Arizona educators, students, higher education, and business in the development of the test and related materials
- Demonstrate accessibility for all students, with optimal access for English language learners and students with special needs
- Deliver the requirements in a cost efficient manner