

STATE BOARD MEETING DATE February 24, 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: February 6, 2014

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ARS §15-741 requires the Board to adopt and implement a test to measure pupil achievement. A new assessment aligned with the fully implemented 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.

An assessment should guide instruction by providing educators, students, and families with critical information to improve student achievement. School accountability measures in state law (A-F School Letter Grades, Move on When Reading, Principal and Teacher Evaluations) depend upon an assessment to evaluate our students and schools performance relative to the Arizona College and Career Ready Standards. The State Board is working to select an assessment that provides valid, reliable, and timely data to educators and policy makers to advance the academic success of Arizona students.

The Board is devoted to the selection of a rigorous assessment to measure student learning and inform the State's accountability measures. The Board intends to select a rigorous, cost efficient, statewide assessment aligned with Arizona's educational priorities through a very transparent and independent procurement process.

In order to have the new statewide assessment in place for the 2014-15 School Year, the Board expects to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) 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]