



Arizona Department of Education
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal

Media Release

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Arizona Department of Education Releases 2013 AIMS Test Results & A-F Letter Grades

(Phoenix, AZ, August 1, 2013)– Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal announced today the release of statewide results for the 2013 Arizona’s Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) for those students who tested this past spring as well as 2013 A-F letter grades for all Arizona schools and districts.

Each year Arizona students in grades 3 – 8 and 10 are required to take the AIMS tests to measure their mastery of the various subject materials as outlined in the adopted state content standards. AIMS math and reading tests are taken in each of the required years, writing is taken in grades 5, 6, 7 and 10, and science in grades 4, 8 and 10.

This year Arizona saw a small gain in both math and reading AIMS scores. From 2012 to 2013, the percentage of students passing the math assessment rose by one percentage point to 61%. Over 78% of students passed the reading test, again an increase of 1%.

Statewide, 57% of students passed science and 56% of students passed the writing portion. “Our writing and science test results are a wakeup call. It is unacceptable that over 40% of our students cannot test at a minimum AIMS standard in writing and science,” said Superintendent Huppenthal.

In Grade 10, we saw gains in math and reading, up two and three percentage points respectively. Writing scores remained at 70%, the same as the 2012 results. Sixty-two percent of tenth graders passed the math portion of the test. Reading showed higher success with 83% of tenth grade students passing.

A-F letter grades are based on the weighting of student performance on the AIMS tests and student academic growth from year to year, along with additional points awarded for high English Language

Learner reclassifications, and significant reductions in dropout rates. Every school and district receives a report card with a grade that reflects their annual academic profile.

Approximately 60 more schools across the state earned "A" letter grades when compared to last year. At the same time, the number of schools receiving a grade of B, C, or D fell. "The majority of Arizona schools are doing quite well," said Huppenthal, as 63% of schools are receiving A or B labels. "Arizona's schools are improving. In fact, we found over 300 schools improved a letter grade over last year."

At the press conference, Superintendent Huppenthal was joined by leaders from high performing schools such as Benson Unified School District and Glendale High School who shared their success stories on raising student achievement.

A complete list of AIMS test results by grade, school, district, charter and county can be found at: <http://www.azed.gov/research-evaluation/aims-assessment-results/>

A complete list of A-F Letter Grades can be found at: <http://www.azed.gov/research-evaluation/a-f-accountability/>

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