



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

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Arizona Department of Education Releases 2011 AIMS Test Scores

Phoenix, AZ, July 13, 2011— Today, the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) released the 2011 Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) scores for those students who tested this past spring. Each year Arizona students in grades 3 – 8 and in tenth grade are required to take the AIMS tests to measure their mastery of the various subject materials as outlined in the adopted state curriculum 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.

Once again Arizona saw steady improvement on the AIMS reading test, with 76 percent of the students passing the reading assessment— 65 percent of students met and 11 percent of students exceeded the reading requirements. This is a three percentage point increase over 2010 when 73 percent of students passed the reading requirements and a six percentage point increase over 2009 when 70 percent of students passed the reading requirements.

“Arizona made a strong commitment to improving our student’s reading starting in 2002 when we started our AZ Reads program,” said Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal. “The Department will continue to provide the necessary support and resources our teachers and schools need to help students be the best readers that they can be.”

The 2011 AIMS writing test for grades 5, 6, 7 and 10 contained higher academic expectations for students. These increased academic expectations were defined by Arizona teachers over the past year during the test review process. The result of the increased expectations was a dip in AIMS writing scores from 71 percent of students passing in 2010 to 56 percent passing in 2011.

“This dip in writing scores was expected,” said Roberta Alley ADE’s Associate Superintendent responsible for Accountability, Review and Analysis. “Teachers very carefully evaluated the past writing assessment and saw a need to raise the cut scores in grades 5, 6 and 7 on the tests in order to get students ready for high school.”

“The end result is that holding students to a higher standard in their writing throughout their academic careers will lead to greater success when they enter the work force,” concluded Superintendent Huppenthal.

AIMS math scores increased slightly in 2011 with 59 percent of students passing the mathematics assessment compared to 57 percent in 2010.

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