



## Arizona State Board of Education

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April 28, 2016

Re: Arizona's Move on When Reading law

Dear Colleague:

This letter provides information regarding Arizona's Move on When Reading law and its impact on 2015-2016 third graders. Arizona Revised Statutes § 15-701(A)(2) states that a student may not be promoted from the third grade if the student obtains a score on the reading portion of the statewide assessment that demonstrates that the student's reading proficiency falls far below the third grade level as set by the State Board of Education (SBE). At its August 24, 2015 SBE meeting, the SBE adopted an AzMERIT reading cut score for third grade reading proficiency that was intended to be equivalent to the "falls far below" level previously set for the statewide AIMS assessment for the purposes of the Move on When Reading statutory retention requirements.

As the Arizona Department of Education stated in earlier communications to LEAs, it expects that school year 2015-2016 Spring AzMERIT Assessment data will be available on-line for school districts and charter schools on June 6, 2016. Because the data regarding third grade students' reading performance on AzMERIT is available before the start of academic year 2016-2017, school districts and charter schools must apply the retention policies of A.R.S. § 15-701(A)(2). At the April 25, 2016 SBE meeting, the Board affirmed that third grade retention practices as defined by A.R.S. § 15-701 must be implemented with no adjustments. Accordingly, current third grade students are subject to the retention requirements if they do not meet the required score on the reading portion of the AzMERIT assessment.

If a third grade student obtains a score on the reading portion of AzMERIT that demonstrates that the student's reading falls far below the third grade level, the student should be retained and provided the intervention and remedial strategies consistent with A.R.S. § 15-701(A)(2)(c)(i) through (iv), unless the student falls within one of the statutory exemptions from retention described in A.R.S. § 15-701(A)(2)(b)(i) and (ii).

Reading the statutory provisions of A.R.S. § 15-701 together, a school district or charter school may prescribe and apply its policies under A.R.S. § 15-701(B)(5) regarding subsequent promotion to the fourth grade for a student who has been retained and provided the intervention and remedial strategies required under A.R.S. § 15-701(A)(2)(c). Thus, a student who has been retained and receives summer school reading instruction or other interventions under A.R.S. § 15-701(A)(2)(c) may be promoted to the fourth grade if sufficient progress is made consistent with the application of a school district or charter school's policies under A.R.S. § 15-701(B)(5).

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*Board Members:* President Greg Miller    Vice President Reginald Ballantyne III  
Tim Carter    Dr. Rita H. Cheng    Amy Hamilton  
Roger Jacks    Charles Schmidt    Jared Taylor    Dr. James Rottweiler    Vacancy  
Superintendent of Public Instruction Diane Douglas  
*Executive Director:* Dr. Karol Schmidt

**MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING OF  
THE ACADEMY OF EXCELLENCE  
May 5, 2016**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dr. Eula S. Dean, Board Chair  
Mrs. Brenda H. Nelson, Board Secretary  
Mrs. Jo-Anne Parker, Board Member

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF:** None

**GUEST:** Mr. Rick Roberts, CPA  
AFR Management, Inc.

**General Function**

1. *Call to Order*

The Board Meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Dr. E. S. Dean, at 11:00 A.M.

2. *Pledge of Allegiance*

Board Chair Dr. E. S. Dean led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**General Meeting**

**Item A. Approval of Previous Minutes**

Board Chair Dr. Eula S. Dean presented the Minutes and called for a motion to approve the previous Minutes as presented. Board Member, Mrs. J. A. Parker made a motion to approve the previous Minutes as presented and Board Secretary Mrs. B. H. Nelson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Item B. Discussion and Approval of the 2015-2016 Revised School Budget**

Board Chair, Dr. E. S. Dean called for the accountant Mr. Rick Roberts to present the revised school budget. As Mr. Roberts reviewed the revised budget, the board members asked questions. Board Chair, Dr. E. S. Dean called for a motion to approve the 2015-2016 Revised School Budget. Board Member Mrs. J. Parker made a motion to approve the 2015-2016 Revised School Budget and Board Secretary Mrs. B. H. Nelson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Item C. School Improvement**

The school Team is currently engaged in completing the end of the year assessments for I-Ready, Galileo and Dibels. The AZ Charter Board requires all schools to administer a math and reading diagnostic assessment to all students. As part of a balanced assessment system, these assessments provide valuable information to students, families, schools, districts, the state, and taxpayers. A balanced assessment system is one that contains formative assessments (quick checks for learning conducted by teachers throughout their class), interim assessments (more formal progress monitoring is conducted several times throughout the year to see how students are progressing), and summative assessments (end of year assessments to find out what students know and can do).

**Item D. Student Recruitment**

Board Chair, Dr. E. S. Dean called for a status on student recruiting for the 2016-2017 school year. Board Secretary, Mrs. B. H. Nelson reported the families have been real slow returning the re-enrollment applications that were sent out in mid-January. The Board Secretary added, some students reported not returning the following school year due to families moving or their parents wanting to

change schools and have their child/children attend a school near their home. Board Secretary added, fliers have been distributed to a number of places within the immediate community near AOE and plans are made for more fliers to be distributed in the South Phoenix Community over the weekend. Board Secretary reported only 45 re-enrollment or new applications have been received at the present time.

***Adjournment:***

Board Chair, Dr. E. S. Dean called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Board Member, Mrs. J. A. Parker made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Board Secretary Mrs. B.H. Nelson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 12:10 P.M.

Submitted by the Board Secretary: *Brenda H. Nelson*

Date: May 6, 2016

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