



State of Arizona
Department of Education
Research and Evaluation

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Charter Holders, Principals, and Testing Coordinators

FROM: Leila Williams, Ph.D.
Associate Superintendent

Yovhane L. Metcalfe, Ph.D.
Chief Accountability Officer

DATE: May 1, 2014

SUBJECT: **Arizona State Board of Education Delays Adoption of 2014 A-F Letter Grade Accountability System**
(REF: ACCTY14-2)

This memorandum is to inform you that the State Board of Education has not yet approved any of the following items regarding the 2014 A-F Letter Grade Accountability System presented at the April 28th meeting:

- 1) New A-F Letter Grade Substantive Appeals process
- 2) Incorporate College and Career Ready Index (CCRI) graduation rate component only for all high schools in FY2014 which necessitates the following:
 - a. New traditional high school letter grade scales
 - b. New alternative high schools model
 - c. Set alternative point scale for all alternative schools

In addition to three recent SBE AZ LEARNS subcommittee meetings, as well as 26 external meetings with various stakeholders where ADE collected feedback and discussed the items above, three board members requested an additional opportunity for public input. Therefore, the SBE AZ LEARNS subcommittee will reconvene on **May 12th at 1:30pm in ADE room 417 to obtain any additional public comment or suggestions.**

This delay leaves some unanswered questions for schools; however, ADE is committed to moving forward expeditiously by providing the Board with all information needed to adopt a final recommendation, possibly in May. ADE prioritizes Arizona's ESEA waiver status for SY2014-2015 by recommending sound, defensible, and student-centered policies. ADE invites any and all input at the May 12th meeting, via email to achieve@azed.gov or by phone at the number below. We are hopeful that the Board will reconsider these items at its May 19th meeting.

The A-F training workshops referenced in ADE's April 18th memorandum will be cancelled indefinitely due to this new timeline. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and work diligently to issue the accountability determinations within the expected timeframe.

