



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SB 1458

schools; achievement profiles

Sponsor: Senator Crandall

DP	Committee on Education
DP	Caucus and COW
X	As Transmitted to Governor

OVERVIEW

SB 1458 requires the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) to make a complete transition to the letter grade system for school achievement profiles in the 2012-13 academic school year.

HISTORY

Arizona Revised Statutes § 15-241 requires ADE to compile an annual achievement profile for each public school and school district. For schools that offer instruction in kindergarten through grade eight, the achievement profile is calculated using Arizona's Measure of Academic Progress, Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) test results and the English Language Learners (ELL) test results. For schools that offer instruction in grades nine through twelve, the achievement profile includes annual dropout rates, graduation rates and AIMS and ELL test results. The school's achievement profile is used to determine the school or school district's letter grade classification as A, B, C, D or F based on the following performance levels:

- "A" schools demonstrate an excellent level of performance.
- "B" schools demonstrate an above average level of performance.
- "C" schools demonstrate an average level of performance.
- "D" schools demonstrate a below average level of performance.
- "F" schools demonstrate a failing level of performance or are determined by SBE to be among the "persistently lowest-achieving schools" in Arizona under federal school accountability requirements.

This system replaced the previous school classification system, AZLEARNS, that designated each school as excelling, highly performing, performing, underperforming or failing. Laws 2010, Chapter 247, directed ADE to phase out the AZLEARNS system by providing achievement profiles under both the previous classification system and the letter-grade system for school years 2011-12 and 2012-13.

PROVISIONS

- Eliminates the requirement that ADE must assign both a classification under the previous system and a letter grade to a school, school district or charter school in the 2012-13 school year.
- Directs ADE to only assign a letter grade to a school, school district or charter school in the 2012-13 school year.
- Requires a school, school district or charter school that is assigned a letter grade of "D" for two prior consecutive years and is required to participate in a mandatory school improvement process to be assigned a letter grade of "F".

SB 1458

- Allows ADE to assign a school, school district or charter school a letter grade of “F” in the next two academic years as follows:
 - In the 2012-13 school year, a letter grade of “F” may be assigned if the school’s prior classification under AZLEARNNS was underperforming.
 - In the 2013-14 school year, a letter grade of “F” may be assigned if the school was assigned a letter grade of “D” in 2012-13 and the school’s 2011-12 AZLEARNNS classification was underperforming.
- Repeals session law on July 1, 2014 that outlines the assignment of an “F” letter grade during the next two academic years.