

Senate Engrossed House Bill

statewide assessment; accommodations; written form

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-seventh Legislature
First Regular Session
2025

CHAPTER 204

HOUSE BILL 2540

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-741, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO SCHOOL
ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 15-741, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 15-741. Assessment of pupils; definition

5 A. The state board of education shall:

6 1. Adopt rules for the purposes of this article pursuant to title
7 41, chapter 6.

8 2. Adopt and implement a statewide assessment to measure pupil
9 achievement of the state board-adopted academic standards in reading,
10 writing and mathematics in at least four grades designated by the state
11 board. The state board shall determine the manner of implementation. The
12 state board may administer assessments of the academic standards in social
13 studies and science, except that a pupil shall not be required to meet or
14 exceed the social studies or science standards measured by the statewide
15 assessment.

16 3. Ensure that the tests prescribed in this section are uniform
17 throughout this state.

18 4. Ensure that the tests prescribed in this section are able to be
19 scored in an objective manner and are not intended to advocate any
20 sectarian, partisan or denominational viewpoint.

21 5. Ensure that the tests prescribed in this article collect only
22 types of pupil nontest data that are approved by the state board at a
23 public meeting and published on the website of the state board pursuant to
24 paragraph 7 of this subsection.

25 6. Include within its budget all costs pertaining to the tests
26 prescribed in this article. If sufficient monies are appropriated, the
27 state board may provide achievement test services to school districts that
28 request assistance in testing pupils in grades additional to those
29 required by this section.

30 7. Survey teachers, principals and superintendents on
31 achievement-related nontest indicators, including information on
32 graduation rates by ethnicity and dropout rates by ethnicity for each
33 grade level. Before the survey, the state board shall approve at a public
34 meeting the nontest indicators on which data will be collected and shall
35 post in a prominent position on the home page of the state board's website
36 a link to the nontest indicators entitled "What nontest data does the
37 state of Arizona collect about Arizona pupils?". The linked ~~web page~~
38 WEBPAGE shall state the types of data collected, the reasons for the
39 collection of the data and the entities with which the data is shared. In
40 conducting the survey and collecting data, the state board shall not
41 violate the provisions of the family educational rights and privacy act
42 (P.L. 93-380), as amended, or disclose personally identifiable
43 information.

44 8. Establish a fair and consistent method and standard by which
45 test scores from schools in a district may be evaluated taking into

1 consideration demographic data. The state board shall establish
2 intervention strategies to assist schools with scores below the acceptable
3 standard. The state board shall annually review district and school
4 scores and shall offer assistance to school districts in analyzing data
5 and implementing intervention strategies. The state board shall use the
6 adopted test and methods of data evaluation for a period of at least ten
7 years.

8 9. Participate in other assessments that provide national
9 comparisons as needed.

10 10. Require in the contract for the statewide assessment pursuant
11 to this section that test scores and assessment data from the third grade
12 reading portion of the statewide assessment adopted pursuant to this
13 section be received by local education agencies on or before May 15 of
14 each academic year and that the scores and assessment data from all other
15 portions of the statewide assessment adopted pursuant to this section be
16 received by local education agencies on or before May 25 of each academic
17 year. The state board shall impose penalties on the contractor for scores
18 received after these dates. If the state board alters the statewide
19 assessment testing window for any reason, the state board may adjust the
20 dates by which local education agencies are required to receive the scores
21 and assessment data proportionately. If the state board adjusts the dates
22 by which local education agencies are required to receive the scores and
23 assessment data, the state board may not impose penalties on the
24 contractor unless the scores and assessment data are received after the
25 adjusted dates.

26 B. The achievement tests adopted by the state board as provided in
27 subsection A of this section shall be given at least annually. Nontest
28 indicator data and other information shall be collected at the same time
29 as the collection of achievement test data.

30 C. Local school district governing boards shall:

31 1. Administer the tests prescribed in subsection A of this section.

32 2. Survey teachers, principals and superintendents on
33 achievement-related nontest indicator data as required by the state board,
34 including information related to district graduation and dropout rates.
35 In conducting the survey and collecting data, the governing board shall
36 not violate the provisions of the family educational rights and privacy
37 act (P.L. 93-380), as amended, or disclose personally identifiable
38 information.

39 D. Any additional assessments for high school pupils that are
40 adopted by the state board after November 24, 2009 shall be designed to
41 measure college and career readiness of pupils.

42 E. IF A HIGH SCHOOL PUPIL WHO IS ENROLLED IN A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR
43 CHARTER SCHOOL PARTICIPATES IN A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ASSESSMENT THAT IS
44 BOTH ADOPTED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION A OF
45 THIS SECTION AND ADMINISTERED BY A PERSON OTHER THAN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

1 OR CHARTER SCHOOL, THE PUPIL OR PUPIL'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN MAY SUBMIT THE
2 PUPIL'S OFFICIAL SCORE REPORT FOR THE ASSESSMENT TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR
3 CHARTER SCHOOL. ON RECEIPT OF AN OFFICIAL SCORE REPORT PURSUANT TO THIS
4 SUBSECTION, THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL SHALL DO ALL OF THE
5 FOLLOWING:

6 1. RECORD THE SCORE IN THE PUPIL'S FILE.

7 2. REPORT THE SCORE TO THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE
8 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

9 3. IF THE PUPIL OR PUPIL'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN SUBMITS AN OFFICIAL
10 SCORE REPORT PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER
11 SCHOOL BEFORE THE DATE ON WHICH THE SCHOOL ADMINISTERS THE TESTS
12 PRESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION, ALLOW THE PUPIL TO OPT OUT OF
13 PARTICIPATION IN THE ASSESSMENT THAT IS ADMINISTERED BY THE SCHOOL
14 DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL. IF A PUPIL OPTS OUT OF AN ASSESSMENT PURSUANT
15 TO THIS PARAGRAPH, THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL SHALL USE THE
16 DATA FROM THE PUPIL'S OFFICIAL SCORE REPORT FOR THE PUPIL'S ACHIEVEMENT
17 TEST DATA FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION. THIS PARAGRAPH DOES NOT
18 REQUIRE A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL TO ALLOW A PUPIL TO OPT OUT OF
19 THE COLLECTION OF NONTEST INDICATOR DATA OR OTHER INFORMATION THAT IS
20 COLLECTED ABOUT PUPILS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE ASSESSMENT THAT IS
21 ADMINISTERED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL PURSUANT TO THIS
22 SECTION.

23 ~~F.~~ F. A test for penmanship shall not be required pursuant to this
24 article.

25 ~~F.~~ G. If a local education agency requests a raw data file of
26 assessment data for the pupils tested at the local education agency, the
27 department of education shall fulfill the request in a format that is
28 usable for assessment diagnostics within thirty days after the request.
29 The local education agency shall follow all applicable student data
30 privacy laws and may not publicly disclose individual student achievement
31 results.

32 ~~G.~~ H. ~~On request,~~ A school district or charter school may
33 administer the statewide assessment in the form of a written test IF ANY
34 OF THE FOLLOWING APPLIES:

35 1. A WRITTEN TEST IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO AN INDIVIDUALIZED
36 EDUCATION PROGRAM OR A SECTION 504 PLAN AS DEFINED IN SECTION 15-731.

37 2. TO ACCOMMODATE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

38 3. FOR RELIGIOUS PURPOSES.

39 4. ON REQUEST BY A PUPIL'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN.

40 I. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED" HAS
41 THE SAME MEANING PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 15-741.02.

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR MAY 13, 2025.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE MAY 13, 2025.