



**GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA ITEM  
AMPHITHEATER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10**

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**DATE OF MEETING:**            **December 10, 2013**

**TITLE:    Study of the Arizona College and Career Ready Standards in Mathematics and District Implementation and Curriculum**

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**BACKGROUND:**

The Arizona State Board of Education is charged by state law with setting appropriate academic standards for the state's public schools. These standards, in general, are set both by content and by grade level.

By setting common standards for all public schools, the State Board establishes consistent goals for student learning in each content area and in each grade. These goals, in turn, direct outcomes and expectations for teachers designed to ensure that students have the skills and knowledge necessary for future success. The attainment of statewide goals by students is then measured by the state (currently through the AIMS test). As we know, this measurement is not without purpose. The results of assessments inform parents on the progress of their children and, presumably, provide "data" for an increasingly consumer-focused public education setting.

It is also important to remember that the results of AIMS testing has high stakes both for students (as meeting state standards is a required achievement for high school graduation) and for teachers, whose evaluation, continuing status and employment are now contingent to great degree on state mandates regarding student outcome measures.

In 2010, the State Board prescribed the most comprehensive and substantive revision of academic state standards in Arizona's history, through the adoption of the Arizona College and Career Ready Standards ("the ACCRS"). The ACCRS were largely developed through a cooperative effort between a majority of the nation's states, thereby facilitating more reliable inter-state comparisons regarding student achievement on a consistent, "apples-to-apples" basis. Arizona's ACCRS also include individually developed components unique to our state.

Since the passage of the ACCRS in 2010, Amphitheater Public Schools has been preparing for their implementation, which the Arizona Legislature and State Board required for this school year. The implementation of the ACCRS, so different from prior standards, required entirely new curricula. Recognizing how comprehensive a change the new standards represented, the selection of new curricula demanded a broad, inclusive selection and adoption process.

Over the course of six months last year, teams of teachers from across the District and across all grade level worked to define parameters for the selection of relevant curricular materials that would effectively implement the ACCRS. The process, in accordance with law, also allowed for a 60 day preview window so that any interested member of the public could view the curricular materials being considered for adoption. All mathematics and language arts teachers in the District were specifically invited to view the materials being considered. To facilitate teacher review and input, the curricular materials were made available at each school site. Following teacher input and the 60 day public review window, the selection committees made their recommendations to the Governing Board for adoption.

Among the curriculum adoptions that followed the process briefly outlined above, was the selection of the Carnegie Learning Mathematics program for secondary schools. Given questions raised concerning the Carnegie Learning adoption, the administration will be providing this Study Session for the Governing Board.

At the December 10 meeting, district staff will present information concerning the ACCRS and some components of the specific mathematics standards that a new curriculum was required to address, as well as some of the additional background regarding statewide mandates for standards-based education that are very pertinent to the instant discussion.

Staff will also provide some more specific information on the selection and adoption process for the middle and high school math curriculum, as well as specific rationales from the relevant committee for its ultimate recommendation to the Governing Board for the adoption of the Carnegie Learning program. Other staff will present details on classroom implementation of the Carnegie Learning curriculum.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

This item is presented for the Board's study. No action will be taken at this time.

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**INITIATED BY:**



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Todd A. Jaeger, Associate to the Superintendent

Date: December 4, 2013



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Patrick Nelson, Superintendent