



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

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**DATE OF MEETING:**      **March 8, 2016**

**TITLE:**      **Revisions to Governing Board Policy IKF and Related Administrative Regulations Pertaining to Graduation Requirements, Including Language Pertaining to High School Credits Earned in Middle School and Physical Education Course Credit Requirements**

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**BACKGROUND:**

Policy IKF is the Governing Board's proscription, as required by law, of the credits required for graduation from District high schools. Arizona school districts are permitted to determine course and credit requirements, as long as they meet minimum standards set forth by the Arizona Department of Education and, in some respects, the Arizona Legislature.

The Board will recall that Policy IKF, and issues relating to it, have been reviewed several times by the Board. In previous discussion, which was primarily related to the issue of high school credits earned during middle school, the issue of Physical Education course credit requirements was also raised by Vice President Grant. This item is also therefore presented at this time not only for discussion of revisions proposed by the Administration relating to the former issue, but also to permit discussion, direction and/or revisions, if any, which the Governing Board may choose to also include at this time relating to the latter issues of Physical Education.

Current Governing Board Policy is to mandate 1.5 credits in Physical Education for graduation. State law, incidentally, is silent on P.E. credits; no P.E. credits are mandated by state law.

The changes primarily presented by this item, in Administrative Regulation IKF-RC, incorporate site level practices that have been effective in assuring student success in high school for many years by assessing student readiness for higher level content. This revision is consistent with state law on the matter of awarding credit for external/transfer credit.

In addition, since the Board's last review on February 9, 2016, this group of policy documents has also been revised to eliminate language referencing eliminated AIMS tests due to the repeal of A.R.S. 15-701.02 (Alternative High School Graduation Requirements).

Board Members will recall that Senate Bill 1191 provided for a temporary moratorium on the requirement of obtaining a passing score on a statewide standardized test in order to graduate from high school. This has been enacted as an emergency measure and is effective for the 2015-2016, 2016-2017, and 2017-2018 school years. This has not been codified in Arizona Revised Statutes. The civics portion of the naturalization test now required for graduation under section 15-701.01, Arizona Revised Statutes, however, is not included in the moratorium and remains law.

Senate Bill 1289 prescribed a transition process to revise the school and school district accountability system. In relevant part, the bill states "Notwithstanding any other law, a pupil's score on an assessment selected pursuant to section 15-741, Arizona Revised Statutes, may not be used as a factor in determining a pupil's letter grade in any particular course in school years 2014-2015 and 2015-2016" and "is effective retroactively to from and after June 30, 2014." This has not been codified in Arizona Revised Statutes, but is effective through session law.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

This is presented for the Board's study and/or approval, as the Board may further revise the presented revisions. The School Operations Department will be able to provide some additional information and rationale for the revisions presented, and the Administration recommends approval of those revisions.

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**INITIATED BY:**

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Todd A. Jaeger, Associate to the Superintendent

Date: March 1, 2016



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Patrick Nelson, Superintendent