



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

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**DATE OF MEETING:** May 10, 2011

**TITLE:** Review and Approval of Elementary Report Card Pilot and Parent Survey Results

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**BACKGROUND:** Results from the elementary report card survey administered last October represented 1900 parent and teacher responses from 12 schools. Those survey results indicated an 80% approval rate for the current standards based report cards used in all grades, kindergarten through 5th grade. At that time, report cards reflected student progress toward end of year standards with a proficiency key rating of 4, 3, 2, or 1 on content and skills aligned to the Arizona State Standards.

Comments solicited during the survey window indicated that, although a high approval level existed for report cards used in kindergarten and first grade, a number of issues needed to be addressed for report cards used in grades 2 through 5. In January, letter grades were added in those grades for each major content area to reflect the quality of student work during the current grading period. The proficiency key was also expanded in those grades to allow for greater differentiation in communicating students' progress toward end of year standards.

A second survey was distributed at the end of third quarter. Parents and teachers of students in grades 2 through 5 were asked to rate the following three statements, either strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree:

- The report card shows the quality of my child's/students' work/performance for the current grading period.
- The report card shows what my child/students is/are expected to learn by the end of the year.
- The expanded grade level proficiency key and the addition of letter grades provide more information about my child's/students' progress than the system used last semester.

Over 4000 surveys were returned. Results indicated a 92% parent approval rating and a 75% teacher approval rating, for a 91% approval rating overall. Comments obtained during the survey process revealed that parent approval was due largely to the creation of a hybrid system that incorporated the use of letter grades in addition to the expanded numerical proficiency ratings. Teacher approval, while somewhat less than parents, can be attributed to a number of factors, one of which is that the report card process was changed mid-year, requiring modifications be made to grading procedures that otherwise would not have been made. Nevertheless, the approval rate in March was significantly higher overall than what was obtained in the prior survey.

Work continues on the implementation of the new report cards. Groups of teachers have worked by grade level to align report card content to the new Arizona Core Standards as they currently exist. Full texts of these alignments are attached for your information. Grading guidelines have been developed based on best practice and what teachers are currently using to determine grades. These guidelines will be distributed to teachers in all schools as a resource in setting up their grading systems. Finally, training in Tyler Grade Book will begin in July for elementary teachers. An element of this training will focus on the calibration of grading practices based on research and feedback obtained during the pilot process.

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**RECOMMENDATION:** It is the recommendation of the administration to continue the use of the hybrid model for report cards with the knowledge that standards alignment will continue as state standards change.

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**INITIATED BY:**



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**Cathy Eiting, Chief Academic Officer**

**Date:** April 29, 2011



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**Patrick Nelson, Associate Superintendent**



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**Vicki Balentine, Ph.D., Superintendent**