

Overview

What is AzMERIT?

AzMERIT (Arizona's Measurement of Educational Readiness to Inform Teaching) is Arizona's new statewide achievement test. Arizona is partnering with the American Institutes for Research (AIR) to develop tests which are unique to Arizona.

Why does Arizona need this new test?

In 2010, the Arizona State Board of Education adopted new standards in English language arts and mathematics for all students in Arizona. These academic standards outline what students should know and be able to do at each grade level. With the adoption and implementation of new standards, a new test was necessary.

How is AzMERIT different from the AIMS test?

Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) tested the old standards. Spring 2014 was the last time AIMS was administered for reading, writing, and mathematics.

AzMERIT, based on the new standards, will tell teachers, students, and parents if students are on track to be college and career ready upon graduation from high school.

The Arizona Science Standards did not change, so students in Grades 4, 8, and high school will still take the AIMS Science test.

High school students graduating after December 31, 2016 will no longer be required to pass the AIMS test to graduate high school.

Who will take AzMERIT?

Arizona public school students in Grades 3 through high school will take AzMERIT.

Students in Grades 3 through 8 will take an assessment in English language arts and mathematics at their grade level.

Students taking high school level English and mathematics will take End-of-Course assessments that will test their proficiency in these subjects.

Only eligible students with significant cognitive disabilities will participate in other alternate achievement tests.

When will the test be given?

Students will take AzMERIT in the spring of 2015. The testing window for schools administering the computer-based test is March 30-May 8, 2015. The testing window for the paper-based test is April 13-24, 2015. Schools will inform students and parents of specific testing dates within these windows.

How will AzMERIT be administered?

AzMERIT will be computer-based. For schools that are not yet ready to administer a computer-based assessment, a paper-based version will be available.

Schools will have the ability to opt-in to the computer-based test if they feel they have the resources to successfully administer the test in this manner.

