

AzMERIT – High Expectations and You

AzMERIT, *Arizona’s Measurement of Educational Readiness to Inform Teaching*, is the assessment given to third – through 11th-grade students in Arizona that determines how students are learning based on Arizona’s College and Career Ready Standards. In November 2014, the Arizona State Board of Education voted to replace AIMS with AzMERIT. The new assessment was first administered to students in Spring 2015. Students were assessed in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics.

AzMERIT is available in two formats: computer-based or paper/pencil. Phoenix Elementary Schools are administering the test in the computer-based format.

Performance labels for AzMERIT are Highly Proficient, Proficient, Partially Proficient and Minimally Proficient.

Frequently Asked Questions

When will AzMERIT be administered?

The AzMERIT assessment window for Arizona schools is March 27 – May 4.

When will I receive my child’s scores?

The Arizona Department of Education expects to deliver Family Score Reports toward the end of May. Your child’s school will ensure you receive your results as soon as possible.

What should you learn from this report?

The Family Score Report helps you understand your child’s academic achievement. You can see how your child is performing in comparison to other students in the same grade level, school, and district. In addition to giving you an overall score, the report also breaks down each subject into categories to provide you with a better understanding on how your child performed in different areas of ELA and Math.

How will my child’s score be used?

Scores will be used to better tailor instruction to individual student needs and give teachers a tool see how students and schools across the state are doing.

What if my child did well on his or her report card, but not as well on this test?

AzMERIT is only one of several measures that are used to determine your child’s academic performance. Report card grades include multiple sources of information – participation, work habits, group projects, assignments, and homework – all of which are important in determining

a child's academic achievement. These sources are not reflected on the test, so there may be some differences. To further explore your child's academic achievement, talk with his or her teacher.

What types of questions are asked?

AzMERIT includes a number of different types of questions, including performance tasks that are multi-step assignments that ask students to apply their knowledge and skills to address real-world problems. In ELA, students have to apply their research and writing skills, and in math, they solve complex problems and then describe and defend their reasoning. The test also includes traditional multiple choice questions, as well as interactive questions that require students to drag and drop their answers into a box, create equations, and fill in the answer.

How is AzMERIT different?

AzMERIT focuses on measuring real-world skills. For example, students are asked to read complex passages, analyze them, and write a response, which is different from previous tests. This is the first Arizona assessment that includes a writing section at every grade level. This test emphasizes applying skills over memorization of facts. Therefore, there are only a number of multiple choice "fill in the bubble" questions on AzMERIT.

How can I use these test results to help my child improve?

Families can use the test results to guide a discussion with your child's teachers about additional support that your child may need in class, as well as ways to support your child at home. Your child's performance is broken down into categories in each subject. Therefore, you can use this information to locate activities online that are designed for each category at every grade level.

Where can I find more information?

Make an appointment to talk with your child's teacher.

<http://www.azed.gov/assessment/azmerit/>

<http://www.doyourhomeworkarizona.org>

<https://www.expectmorearizona.org/parents/>

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