



Teaching & Learning

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Dear families:

In the 2017-18 school year, Mesa Public Schools launched a grade enhancement plan that offered students in seventh to 12th grade who earned "proficient" or "highly proficient" on the state assessment AzMERIT or "meets" or "exceeds" on the science AIMS assessment the opportunity to increase their course grade one letter grade if they met the criteria established. The grade enhancement applied to eligible students who were enrolled in a district course beginning in the 2017-18 school year for which there was an AzMERIT or AIMS assessment aligned.

This year, the Arizona State Board of Education changed both the assessment and the cohorts of students required to take the assessment. AzM2 is the new state required assessment that measures proficiency of the English Language Arts and Math standards for the 7th, 8th, and 10th grade cohorts only, as opposed to end of course assessments previously administered to all seven through 12th grade students. The AIMS science assessment remains the same as in previous years.

As Mesa Public Schools continues to pursue our promise of ensuring every student is known by name, served by strength and need, and graduates ready for college, career, and community, we encourage students to demonstrate their proficiency on state assessments. Due to these assessment changes, Mesa Public Schools has updated the grade enhancement practices aligning with the new assessment and student cohorts assessed. A brief overview, examples, and frequently asked questions can be found at: <http://www.mpsaz.org/azm2/grade>. Details of the grade enhancement plan are as follows:

Mathematics Grade Enhancement Plan

For the purpose of encouraging students to demonstrate their proficiency on the State assessments, students enrolled in the 10th grade cohort and 7th and 8th grade students may increase their grades in courses aligned to an applicable State assessment. For the 10th grade cohort, Algebra and/or Geometry may be enhanced for students who took Algebra and/or Geometry at a Mesa Public School in Grades 7 through 10. Such students who earn "proficient" or its equivalent on a State assessment will raise their semester grades for the aligned course by one letter up to a "B," and students who earn "highly proficient" or its equivalent will increase their semester grades by one letter up to an "A." A maximum of two semester grades will be enhanced. Semester grades will not be reduced as a result of a student's performance on a state assessment. A student cannot enhance a former enhancement.

Students will not be able to choose what grade will be enhanced. The school will enhance the lowest grade earned. Additionally, only one grade enhancement in a course will be allowed. A student cannot enhance a former enhancement.

The grade enhancement will apply to the following courses:

- MA07 - Math 7
- MA08 - Pre-Algebra
- MA10 - Accelerated Pre-Algebra (first semester only)
- MA27 - Algebra I
- MA30 - Geometry

- MA32 - Honors Geometry
- MA40 - Algebra II
- MA41- Honors Algebra II

Example I

Algebra: Semester I - B Semester II - C

Geometry: Semester I - B Semester II - C

In this case, both C's would be enhanced to a B

Example II

Algebra: Semester I - C Semester II - C

Geometry: Semester I - C Semester II - C

In this case, Geometry C's would be enhanced to two B's because it is the most recent math course.

Enhancement will occur as long as the course was completed in a Mesa Public School in 7th through 10th grades.

English Language Arts Grade Enhancement Plan

For the purpose of encouraging students to demonstrate their proficiency on the State assessments, students enrolled in the 10th grade cohort and 7th and 8th grade students may increase their grades in courses aligned to an applicable State assessment. For the 10th grade cohort, ELA courses may be enhanced for students who took ELA courses at a Mesa Public School in Grades 7th, 8th and 10th. Such students who earn "proficient" or its equivalent on a State assessment will raise their semester grades for the aligned course by one letter up to a "B," and students who earn "highly proficient" or its equivalent will increase their semester grades by one letter up to an "A." A maximum of two semester grades will be enhanced. Semester grades will not be reduced as a result of a student's performance on a state assessment.

Students will not be able to choose what grade will be enhanced. The school will enhance the lowest grade earned. Additionally, only one grade enhancement in a course will be allowed. A student cannot enhance a former enhancement.

The grade enhancement will apply to the following courses:

- EN 35 - Honors Sophomore English
- EN 38 - Sophomore Essentials of English
- EN 47 - Sophomore English
- EN 65 - IB MYP Sophomore English
- ELD 11 - Introduction to English Grammar I
- ELD 21 - Introduction to English Grammar II

AIMS Science Grade Enhancement

AIMS Science Grade Enhancement remains the same for junior high and high school students for the 2019-2020 school year.

Students earning 'Meeting the Standard' on the AIMS Science assessment:

Students who earn "Meeting the Standard" will increase each semester grade by one letter grade up to a B on in AG30/SC49/SC45W/SC34 courses

Students earning 'Exceeding the Standard' on the AIMS Science assessment:

Students who earn "Exceeding the Standard" will increase each semester grade by one letter grade up to an A in AG30/SC49/SC45W/SC34 courses.

8th, 9th and/or 10th grade students taking the AIMS Science exam will be eligible for grade enhancement for the Science course in which they are enrolled.

Junior High School Grade Enhancement 2019-2020

Students who earn "Proficient" on AzM2 English or Math: Enhance semester grades by one letter grade up to a B.

Students who earn "Highly Proficient" on AzM2 English or Math: Enhance semester grades by one letter grade up to an A.

Junior High School grade enhancements will only be applied to current grade level courses. 7th and 8th students taking Algebra I and Geometry are not eligible for math grade enhancement because the assessment is on 7th and 8th grade standards.

Eligible Junior High School Courses

AzM2:

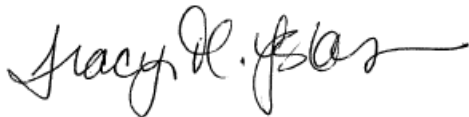
- ELA 07 - English Language Arts 7
- ELA 08 - English Language Arts 8
- ELA 15 - Honors English Language Arts 7
- ELA 16 - Honors English Language Arts 8
- ELD 11 - Introduction to English Grammar I
- ELD 21 - Introduction to English Grammar II
- MA07 - Math 7
- MA08 - Pre-Algebra
- MA10 - Accelerated Pre-Algebra (first semester only)

AIMS:

- SC 08 - Integrated Science II
- SC 20 - Honors 8th Grade Science

If you have any questions, please contact the Teaching and Learning department at 480-472-0340.

Respectfully,



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