

Facts about the AzMERIT Assessment Adoption and Implementation

- AzMERIT was hurriedly adopted on November 3, 2014 by the State Board of Education (SBE) and the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) and it was *not* field tested nor vetted to determine the impact on our students. (<http://www.azed.gov/assessment/files/2014/11/parent-letter.pdf>)
- Test questions for AzMERIT were bought from UT's American Institutes for Research (AIR) test called Student Assessment of Growth and Excellence (SAGE) on December 5, 2014, so it is not an "uniquely Arizona test" to match our Common Core Standards (aka Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards). [<http://www.optoutaz.org/news/azmerit-is-not-so-unique-after-all/> and <http://www.sltrib.com/news/1912812-155/three-states-paying-10m-for-rights>] AzMERIT sample test questions are exactly the same as UT SAGE sample test questions and FL's Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) sample test questions. The AzMERIT assessment is not a "uniquely Arizona test!"
- [AIR](#) (who administers AzMERIT) is a behavioral research organization not an academic organization. Behavioral research is usually administered to people who have severe cognitive or communication disabilities to determine why they demonstrate inappropriate behaviors. Why is a behavior-based research organization testing children who are attending normal schools? This question should be asked by every parent.
- Teachers and testing administrators are inadequately prepared to administer the test for the 2014-2015 school year since AzMERIT was hurriedly adopted.
- AzMERIT is designed to be a high-stakes test– even though it is unproven. The test results can be potentially incorporated into a student's GPA in the high school grades through the End of Course (EOC) exam. [http://www.azed.gov/assessment/files/2014/11/azmerit-eoc_the-basics_final_english.pdf]
- Before AzMERIT was officially administered starting on March 30, 2015, many parents wanted to “opt out” of this assessment but former Attorney General Tom Horne’s “opinion” of ARS statutes was used to discourage parents from doing so. This “AG opinion” states that parents do not have the right to “opt out” our children, even though it does not “officially” state this in any of the ARS statutes. This “AG opinion” was published on December 10, 2014 after the General Election on November 3rd and before the inauguration of new state officers on January 6, 2015. (http://www.azed.gov/assessment/files/2014/12/ag-letter-re-parent-request-to-opt-out-of-azmerit_december-2014.pdf) This AG opinion is just an “opinion” and not “law” and is being used against our “natural parental rights” given to us by our God to direct the “upbringing and education of our children” which are protected by the US Constitution (4th and 14th amendment) and Arizona Revised Statutes (Parental Rights- ARS 1-601 and 1-602). The Supreme Court agrees our parental rights are supreme. (<http://azpolicy.com/marriage-family/parental-rights/>)
- There is no correlation between high-stakes testing and improvement in student education. There has been only one study to prove otherwise- and it was funded by Bill Gates who is a big financier of the Common Core money-making machine. (http://blogs.edweek.org/teachers/living-in-dialogue/2014/02/bill_gates_on_the_record.html) So why are taxpayers being forced to pay for a test that will not produce better education results? Why are schools being required to administer this test?



- Arizona educators expect AzMERIT test scores to drop as much as 50% compared to AIMS test scores (<http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona/2015/01/14/arizona-may-suspend-school-letter-grades/21758295/> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rwk-an3O2zM&feature=youtu.be>). That is why the A-F letter grade accountability system was suspended for the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years with SB1289 by the SBE and the ADE and this was signed by Governor Ducey on 3/25/15. In Utah, the majority of schools that took their SAGE test last spring received a D or F. Less than half the students who took the test passed in Language Arts, Math, and Science. (<http://www.sltrib.com/news/1912812-155/three-states-paying-10m-for-rights>)
- Arizona teachers and school administrators do not understand that the “A-F Accountability system” has been disbanded for 2 years with SB1289 being signed into law. They are fearful of student test scores that will be reported by the ADE on a new assessment where we know students will score lower than AIMS- student scores will be reduced by half! They are also fearful of money being withheld if there isn't a 95% participation rate or if students score poorly on the test. How can there be any penalty to schools with no “A-F accountability system” in place and we do not expect test scores back from American Institutes for Research (AIR) until late fall- probably November?! (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rwk-an3O2zM&feature=youtu.be>) Doesn't the fiscal school year start in July? How can funding be withheld from schools if scores aren't available until November? These questions should have been answered *before* AzMERIT was administered!
- We are being told by the ADE that student data associated with AzMERIT is secure which is untrue. Data will be collected on your child by the company AIR via taking the AzMERIT test. AIR will store this data in the [State Wide Longitudinal Data System](#) that is managed by the federal government. AIR recently experienced a [data breach](#) and data clouds are never fully secure. Every parent should be concerned about the data mining that is going on under Common Core.

