

Updated Mission, Assessment, and More!

October 2016



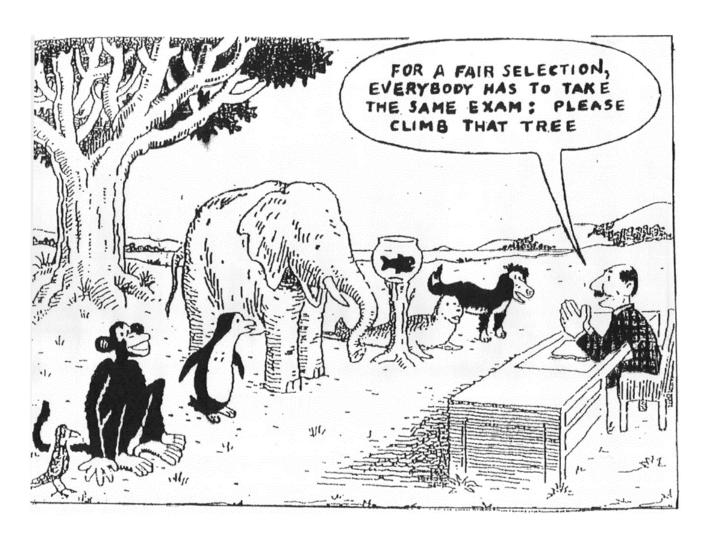
AEC Mission

Advocate

Educate

Collaborate







Advocacy Work for Accountability

Proactive on Alternative School Issues

- Participation on ADE Technical Advisory Group
- Input to SBE A-F School Accountability Ad Hoc Advisory Committee

July 2016 Position on Menu of Assessments

- Opening Menu of Assessments option to alternative education schools
- Prerequisite Knowledge, rather than traditional ideas of "grade level" by straight age or cohort assignment
- End of course assessments "on demand" to best capture student recovering credits and continuous enrollment



Invited to Alternative Accountability Policy Forum

Orchestrating a Continuum of Partnership Voices so ALL Students Succeed

Co-Presenting with National Alternative Education Association, http://www.alternativeaccountabilityforum.org/agenda.html



Educate and Collaborate

Opportunity Youth Initiative

Educational Momentum Forum on Opportunity Youth October 27th



Questions?





TO: Arizona State Board of Education

FROM: Arizona Alternative Education Consortium

RE: A Menu of Assessments for Alternative Education in Arizona

DATE: July 25, 2016

We are very encouraged to see that the State Board of Education is seeking feedback from LEAs through its Menu of Assessments survey.

Surveys have several advantages including collecting a range of data, being relatively easy to administer, and cost-effectiveness. A disadvantage of surveys is that respondents can answer only the questions on the survey, and if the survey only includes close-ended questions, there may be a lower validity rate.

Because the Menu of Assessments survey seems to be designed with traditional schools in mind, we would like to share a few points:

- The option of a menu should be open to alternative education schools inclusive of schools on the ADE alternative schools list, as well as schools serving other unique student populations such as schools for autistic students or homeless students. There are assessments that are sensitive enough to capture the skill level of students who are not currently at "grade" level and growth for those students that occurs when schooled appropriately.
- We look forward to the opportunity to add to Arizona's list rather than attempting to create an exhaustive list at this time.
- "Grade level" is problematic for students at our schools. An alternative education student's status is not determined by age or cohort, where they "should be" in high school. An alternative education student is often lacking the credits associated with typical "grade level" in a traditional school. For example, many 11th "graders" (and 12th graders, as well as fifth, sixth, and seventh year "seniors") come to alternative schools with more than one year of credits still needed toward graduation. Alternative education schools work with students based on prerequisite knowledge, rather than straight age or cohort assignment.



- End of course assessments work for our students when the assessment is timed close to course completion and based on prerequisite skills, rather than lock-step expectations of what a 9th, 10th, or 11th grader "should" know. An end of course assessment must be available "on demand," when the student finishes a course. It is not reflective of a student's skills to assess months after course completion when the student has moved on.
- One assessment during the equivalent of the 11th grade year would work better than over-testing students annually in 9th, 10th, and 11th grade; however, 11th "grade" testing would need to be based on prerequisite knowledge, not simply age or pre-assigned cohort status.

Thank you for considering our additional input about a Menu of Assessments appropriate for alternative education schools.

The Arizona Alternative Education Consortium is a grass-roots member association of personnel and leaders from alternative schools and alternative education programs at accommodation schools, districts, charters, county education service agencies, non-profits, community organizations, dropout recovery programs, and other dedicated stakeholders who support alternative education in Arizona. Our membership represents 100 schools and other organizations. The Arizona Alternative Education Consortium is the Arizona affiliate of the National Alternative Education Association.