



STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

February 15, 2021

The Honorable Katie Hobbs
Secretary of State
1700 W. Washington, 7th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: House Bill 2402 schools; test results; letter classification

Dear Secretary Hobbs,

As I shared in my State of the State address, students have been kept out of school for far too long, and I have serious concerns about the learning loss that has occurred this past year. Getting kids caught up and on track needs to be a top focus of ours.

Today, I signed H.B. 2402. This legislation ensures students continue to be evaluated, so we can get them the help they need, while also recognizing this year is unique and provides some flexibility around the state's A-F letter grade system.

But the data and information we get is only worthwhile if we study it and act on it. So in addition to signing this bill, I'm also issuing Executive Order 2021-03, directing the State Board of Education to utilize AZM2 (AZMerit) Assessment data from this school year to draw comparisons to prior years and identify the extent of learning loss that has occurred. This data will then be used to ensure targeted and evidence-based strategies for acceleration.

This will ensure we continue to have accountability in our education system, so parents can make the best educational choice for their kids. After all, these are our future leaders and it is incumbent upon us that we ensure they are prepared for success. Any future attempts to suspend this grading system will necessitate a much greater level of justification.

Sincerely,

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor
State of Arizona

cc: The Honorable Karen Fann
The Honorable Rusty Bowers
The Honorable Michelle Udall