

What is AIMS?

Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) is a [Criterion Referenced Test \(CRT\)](#) designed to measure each student's progress in learning the Arizona Academic Standards. The Arizona Academic Standards define what students should know and be able to demonstrate at various stages of K-12 education.

Purpose

The purpose of AIMS is to measure the academic achievement of all students throughout the state. AIMS is a state mandated assessment. All Arizona students take AIMS at grades 3 through 8 and in high school. AIMS DPA (Dual Purpose Assessment) contains both AIMS items and TerraNova items. AIMS items are based on the grade specific Arizona Academic Content Standards and TerraNova items are nationally normed items. TerraNova is administered in the Spring to all 2nd and 9th graders. A student guide for each of these grades, containing a description of the content and expectations, as well as sample questions, is sent to each school for dissemination prior to the spring administration of AIMS and is available at <http://www.ade.state.az.us/standards/aims/>.

High school students must "Meet" the content standards in Reading, Mathematics and Writing in order to receive a diploma. Students in the Seligman Unified School District must also meet graduation requirements as specified in the High School Planning guide.

High School students who do not meet or exceed the standard must retake the tests until the standards in that subject area are met. Each student will have five opportunities to take the AIMS. The Arizona Department of Education has created sample tests and has released some items from previous administrations of AIMS. These are available at <http://www.ade.state.az.us/standards/>.

Arizona Academic Standards

The Arizona Academic Standards are clear and concise statements of what all students are expected to know and be able to do in Reading, Writing and Mathematics at the various levels: Readiness (Kindergarten), Foundations (1-3), Essentials (4-8), Proficiency (9-12) and Distinction (9-12). These standards are listed by content area on the Arizona Department of Education Web site at <http://www.ade.state.az.us/standards/contentstandards.asp>

Performance Levels

AIMS scores are reported in terms of one of four performance levels, according to the student's test performance. The State Board of Education has set these performance levels as: Falls Far Below the Standard, Approaches the Standard, Meets the Standard, and Exceeds the Standard. A complete description of these Performance Level indicators is available at <http://www.ade.state.az.us/standards/AIMS/PerformanceStandards/Default.asp>