



October 9, 2019

Dear Salt River Schools Stakeholders,

This message is to keep our students, staff, families, and Community informed about the status of the Salt River High School letter grade. The A-F school letter grades are expected to be released by the Arizona Department of Education in December or January.

**At this time, Salt River Schools has not received letter grades for the 2018-2019 school year.** Last year, Arizona schools received their letter grades in December.

Letter grades, or school report cards, are part of an accountability system that measures year-to-year student academic growth and proficiency on English language arts, math, and science. It also includes the proficiency and academic growth of English language learners, indicators that an elementary student is ready for success in high school and that high school students are ready to succeed in a career or higher education, and high school graduation rates.

Leaders at Salt River Schools are keenly aware of how vital school letter grades are for the future of our students and staff, especially those at Salt River High School, which must receive a letter grade of D or above to avoid possible school closure. Among the many positive changes occurring at SRHS, the school implemented a 90-day action plan in mid-August to improve three priority areas: climate and culture, curriculum, and instruction. This plan was announced and reviewed by the SRHS Site Council and the SRHS Parent/Teacher Advisory Committee and is available to review online at <https://saltriverschools.org/>.

For more information about Arizona school letter grades, visit <https://azreportcards.azed.gov/>.

Additionally, the Arizona Department of Education recently released the percent passing results for schools who took the AzMERIT and other assessments (such as the AIMS Science, ACT, and SAT, among others) during the 2018-2019 school year. This is called the Assessment File, and more information about this data can be found here <https://www.azed.gov/accountability-research/data/>. In past years, these results were released much earlier in the school year, and a recent article in the *Arizona Republic* about these percent passing results may confuse some readers who mistake them for school letter grades. To be clear: Percent passing results are not the same thing as A-F school letter grades.

Assessment tests, data, results, and letter grades can be difficult to understand and we hope updates like this are helpful. If you have questions, please contact me or your school principals.

Sincerely,

Dr. Cynthia Clary  
Acting Superintendent  
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