



**DEER VALLEY**  
*Unified School District*

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**DATE: December 2019**  
**RE: State Testing Grade Enhancement Policy**

Dear Student and Parent/Guardian,

The AzM2 and AIMS Science assessments provide students, teachers, and parents with information about how a student is progressing academically in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. It is important that students perform their best on these assessments to accurately assess their academic progress. In order to motivate students to put forth strong effort, students are eligible to positively impact their semester grades in courses aligned to the high school AzM2 and AIMS Science assessments. The grade enhancement policy provides an incentive for students to do well on the tests, as well as in their course of study in preparation for the assessments. Due to changes in the AzM2 state assessment procedures, which has moved the high school assessments from end-of-course assessments to a 10<sup>th</sup> grade assessment, the DVUSD Grade Enhancement Policy has changed beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

Students who earn a **Proficient** score on an AzM2 ELA or Math assessment or a **Meets The Standard** on the High School AIMS Science test will be eligible to raise their final semester course grade(s) by one letter grade up to a B for the course aligned with the assessment. The grades for all semesters of the aligned course(s) could be raised as long as the course(s) was/were taken prior to the AzM2/AIMS assessment.

Students who earn a **Highly Proficient** score on an AzM2 ELA or Math assessment or a **Exceeds The Standard** on the High School AIMS Science test will be eligible to raise their final semester course grade(s) by one letter grade up to an A for the course aligned with the assessment. The grades for all semesters of the aligned course(s) could be raised as long as the course(s) was/were taken prior to the AzM2/AIMS assessment.

No course grades will be lowered due to poor performance on the high school state assessments. No course grades will be enhanced if the grade has been enhanced previously. Only one grade per eligible semester course will be enhanced. Semester courses aligned to Math include Alg1, Alg2, Geo1 and Geo2, for a maximum of 4 possible grade enhancements from AzM2 Math. Semester courses aligned to ELA include ELA1, ELA2, ELA3 and ELA4, for a maximum of 4 possible grade enhancements from AzM2 ELA. Semester courses aligned to Science include Bio1 and Bio2, for a maximum of 2 possible grade enhancements from AIMS Science. If a student takes a semester course more than once, only the higher of the grades will be enhanced.

Only courses taken at a Deer Valley Unified School District school or program are eligible. The DVUSD courses affected by the grade enhancement policy include:

- AzM2 ELA Score could affect ELA 1-2 or ELA 1-2 Honors and ELA 3-4 or ELA 3-4 Honors
- AzM2 Math Score could affect Algebra 1-2 or Algebra 1-2 Honors and Geometry 1-2 or Geometry 1-2 Honors
- AIMS Science Score could affect Biology 1-2 or Biology 1-2 Honors

Please visit [url.dvUSD.org/GradeEnhancement](http://url.dvUSD.org/GradeEnhancement) for additional information and updates.

Respectfully,  
Dr. Gayle Galligan  
Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction

*Graduating lifelong learners who will successfully compete, lead, and positively impact the world.*

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