

To: AIMS Task Force members
From: David Garcia, Arizona State University
1st year graduate students, Education Leadership and Policy
Date: November 5, 2008
Re: Collection of research materials on the intended purposes of graduation tests

I am pleased to present the first collection of research materials. The collection is for our meeting on Wednesday, November 12th. The topic of the meeting is, “the intended purposes of graduation tests.”

Our purpose for this collection is to educate you on the reasons states, including Arizona, originally initiated graduation tests. This background will be a useful context from which to evaluate the present state of affairs and to consider future options.

We worked to make the research as accessible as possible. Every individual piece is accompanied by a “one-page” document that summarizes the highlights such as the major findings and policy implications. I want to thank Paul Ruiz and Vic Diaz for their hard work on coordinating this collection.

In addition to the research materials, you will find the “what is?” document that members requested. The document summarizes the present state of testing in Arizona. I want to thank Superintendent Tom Horne and his staff from the Arizona Department of Education for preparing this document.

At the meeting, Paul, Vic and I will conduct a presentation of the major themes that transcend the individual pieces. We hope that the collection of research materials and accompanying presentation will stimulate conversation and help guide our efforts.

I look forward to our discussion at the meeting.