

[Email this article](#)
[Print this article](#)
Most emailed pages

[Click to send](#)
Choose File Print or Ctrl P or Apple P
Today | This Week

Position on AIMS misconstrued

May. 29, 2006 12:00 AM

Regarding "Pride in AIMS 'success' is sad" (Letters, May 21):

It was alleged that because JoAnne Hilde, president of the state Board of Education, and I were pleased with the results of the AIMS test, we support low standards. Nothing can be further from the truth.

- In *The Republic's* article on the AIMS results, I stated that over the longer term, I thought we would be raising standards on the test ("AIMS to cost 1,000 a diploma," *Republic*, May 18).
- The passage rate on the test of 94 percent was shown in the article to be below the average of passing rates for other states with high-stakes high school tests. What brought the number to 98 percent was a two-year provision passed by the state Legislature, but which I opposed, that allowed grades to be used to add points on the test. I will strongly oppose extending this beyond the two-year period.
- Two years ago, when 60 percent of the students were failing the test, a number of people panicked and wanted to abandon the test. I stated that, based on results in other states, if we stuck to our guns, the students would study much harder, and over 90 percent of those with the credits to graduate would graduate. That is exactly what happened. The point is to motivate the students to study, not to have a predetermined high failure rate.
- The experience of the May 21 letter writer with unskilled high school graduates is precisely the situation that AIMS was designed to deal with, and is dealing with successfully.

Tom Horne, Phoenix

The writer is Arizona superintendent of public instruction.

[Email this article](#)

[Click to send](#)

Print this article
Most emailed pages

Choose File Print or Ctrl P or Apple P
Today | This Week