



State of Arizona  
Department of Education

To: Parents/Guardians of Arizona Public School Students

From: Roberta Alley  
Associate Superintendent, Accountability and Assessment

Adela Santa Cruz  
Deputy Associate Superintendent, Office of English Language Acquisition Services

Date: October 17, 2011

Subject: Information on AZELLA Fall 2011 Field Test  
Arizona English Language Learner Assessment "AZELLA"

Pursuant to federal and state laws, the Arizona Department of Education is required to identify students who do not have sufficient English language proficiency to participate in mainstream academic classes. To comply with these requirements, a language proficiency test is administered to students who have a home language other than English. The Arizona English language proficiency assessment is the AZELLA.

During the past year, the Arizona Department of Education has collaborated with a national assessment vendor and Arizona educators to refine the test for Arizona's English language learners (ELLs). The new AZELLA aligns to Arizona's English Language Proficiency (ELP) Standards.

An AZELLA Field Test will be administered during a four week window beginning November 7, 2011. A field test is administered to a scientific sample of students in order to collect and measure data that will enable ADE to create a valid and fair AZELLA which will be administered beginning Spring 2012. It is essential that both ELL and non-ELL students participate in order to have significant information for the development of AZELLA. Participating in the AZELLA Field Test is mandatory for identified students. No student reports will be produced since the information is to identify appropriate test questions. Approximately 35,000 students throughout Arizona will participate in the field test.

Thank you in advance for your support of the Fall 2011 AZELLA Field Test activities. We consider carefully any activity that takes time from regular classroom instruction. AZELLA is an important educational tool to determine appropriate education for the students of Arizona.

If you have any questions regarding the AZELLA, please contact your student's school for more information. You may also refer to the Arizona Department of Education's website at [www.azed.gov/english-language-learners/azella/](http://www.azed.gov/english-language-learners/azella/). Thank you for your support of this important project.