

Arizona Data Governance Commission

Meeting Minutes

Friday, November 6, 2015 10:00 AM

Arizona Department of Education

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m.

**Roll Call**

Members Present (Quorum Met)

Michele Norin (Chair), Mark Masterson (Vice Chair), Jeffery Billings, Patrick Burns, Josh Allen, Rod Lenniger, Aaron Hale, Edward Kelty

**Member Reports**

Ms. Norin announced her resignation from the Commission

**Adoption of Changes to K-12 Student Data Collections for FY17, presented by Dr. Rebecca Bolnick**

- **Student Zip Code +4**
  - Dr. Bolnick asked for questions or comments. Mr. Lenniger reminded the Commission that there were concerns about it requiring a significant amount of additional work to the Districts. There were concerns that if the average citizen didn't know the +4 would it bog down the system. Dr. Bolnick assured the members that the documentation addresses those concerns and said the proposed solution would require SIS vendors to look up and get zip code +4 based on student's contact information upon enrollment and submit it to Arizona Department of Education (ADE).
  - Mr. Allen stated that there is a side benefit that the Agency will be able to do better data matching with other State Agencies.
  - Mr. Masterson moved to have the addition of the Zip Code +4, Mr. Kelty seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Parent in Military Flag**
  - Dr. Bolnick explained that this will be a new data collection for Arizona. Mr. Billings stated that this data collection would have very low impact to the schools.
  - Mr. Masterson motioned to approve the new data element collection for the Parent in Military Flag, Mr. Hale seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

- **Dropout Recovery Program, Initial Plan Date**
  - Dr. Bolnick explained that this is an existing data element; the proposal is to add a new plan value of initial plan date. Mr. Billings stated that this is an easy request for the vendors to implement.
  - Mr. Masterson motioned to approve the addition to the Dropout Recovery Program, Initial Plan Date, Mr. Kelty seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Membership Type, Grand Canyon Diploma**
  - Dr. Bolnick explained that this is an existing membership type; this would add the code value 'G' which would identify students with a Grand Canyon diploma. Mr. Billing stated that this data collection is needed, and is easy for vendors to implement.
  - Mr. Masterson motioned to approve the Grand Canyon Diploma additional code value 'G', Mr. Lenniger seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Tuition Payer Code, Publicly Funded Students Not Included In State Aid Payment Formula**
  - Dr. Bolnick explained that this would allow ADE to differentiate between privately paid students and publicly funded students that are not included in state aid payment formula. Currently publicly funded students not included in state aid payment formula are part of code value 2 in tuition payer code and this would enable ADE to differentiate between those two types of students. Mr. Billings stated that this needs to be done and should be easy for vendors to do. Mr. Masterson asked if this would impact on LEA's by having to change their code from 2 to 7, Mr. Billings stated that there is an impact on LEA's but the clean data is important. Mr. Masterson asked if it would be cleaner data for LEA's and ADE and Mr. Billings agreed that it would be. Mr. Masterson commented that documentation would need to be provided to LEA's so they can understand what needs to be done and how to do this. Dr. Bolnick stated that Exceptional Student Services and School Finance would help with training documentation.
  - Mr. Masterson motioned to approve the student collection request for code value 7, Mr. Burns seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Primary Nighttime Residence, Unknown**
  - Dr. Bolnick explained that Unknown is no longer a valid code value.
  - Mr. Masterson motioned to approve the data collection request to discontinue the primary nighttime residence, unknown. Mr. Sloan seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Support Programs – Title 1**
  - Title 1, 22- Title 1 Vocational/Career
  - 23 – Title 1 Health Etc.
  - 24-Title 1 Supporting Guidance/Advocacy
  - 25 – Title 1 Other Support Services
    - Dr. Bolnick explained that these programs are no longer offered; therefore the data collection is no longer needed.
    - Mr. Masterson motioned to approve the deletion of Title 1, program codes 22, 23, 24 and 25. Mr. Allen seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

- Mr. Allen asked why the AZMerit and the Enrollment withdrawal code change were not included. Dr. Bolnick explained that these two items were changes to ADE's system, not changing information that is collected from the field.

**Call to Public**

No requests were received.

**Adjourn**

Chairwoman Norin adjourned the meeting at 10:37 am.

Draft



---

April 4, 2016

With over 1,100,000 students projected to attend Arizona's public district and charter schools next year, and funding based on current year enrollment still set to go online next year, it is imperative that we have a data system that is up to the critical task of handling the influx of student enrollment information. It is with this in mind that we write you today with our deep concern over the state's plan to transition our schools to the new AzEDS system on June 30, 2016. The problems with the new system are significant and the consequences of its failure are even greater.

If AzEDS is not working by July 1, 2016, in every single public school, the state is risking that billions of dollars won't reach the intended students. The reports and student counts meant to be generated through AzEDS result in how the total funding is determined for each school district and charter school. No business would take the risk of changing a system that is the cornerstone of their operations to something that is unproven and that, when tested, fails miserably.

Currently, many school districts and charters testing the new AzEDS system are unable to utilize it. The transition schedule for many schools has been repeatedly delayed by the Arizona Department of Education. Serious concerns exist that at this late date, the transition of AzEDS cannot and will not be completed by July 1, 2016. For example:

- Some of our largest school districts, such as Mesa USD and Peoria USD, have been told multiple times that even attempting to upload their data would crash the entire system.
- Other school districts have received inaccurate counts after the upload. In the instance of Laveen ESD, a district of some 6,000 students, AzEDS reported different student counts from the existing SAIS system.
- Sanders, a small district of just a few hundred on the Navajo Nation, tried to upload their data and after 24 hours still could not get it to sync with AzEDS.

We have attached concerns and comments collected over the last several days from the superintendents of additional school districts.

While the current system has its problems and is in need of replacement, a change to a system that works even worse, if at all, would be disastrous. These delays and inaccurate reports create

serious concerns about the ability to implement a new system in just three months upon which billions of dollars rest. The potential disaster will affect the lives of many; if the system fails, we run the risk of having to delay paychecks to tens of thousands of teachers.

We request that you act immediately to delay the implementation of the new AzEDS system for one year and ensure that it is tested and validated by an independent organization over that time to prove it is accurate, efficient and ready for the critical tasks it must perform.

Sincerely,

Dr. Debra Duvall  
Executive Director,  
Arizona School Administrators

David Lewis  
Executive Director  
Arizona Association of School  
Business Officials

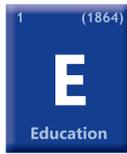
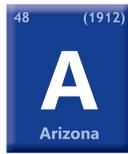
Dr. Timothy L. Ogle  
Executive Director  
Arizona School Boards  
Association

Subscribe

Share ▼

Past Issues

Translate



Dear LEA Administrators, Businesses Managers and Data Specialists:

I am writing you today to address the concerns and frustrations that have been voiced regarding the transition of Local Education Agencies (LEAs) from Arizona's outdated education data system (SAIS) to the new data system (AzEDS). With this communication, I want to assure you that there is nothing more important to me than seeing all LEAs completely and accurately paid on time next school year.

### Background

At the direction of the legislature in 2011, the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) first began the process of replacing SAIS. As you know, the goal of the replacement was to sunset an antiquated and error-riddled data system and install AzEDS, a more accurate, efficient, and transparent system. The transition for all LEAs from SAIS to AzEDS was **supposed to occur July 1, 2015**, but ADE decided to postpone it a year so that your teams could continue to adjust to a new system.

The timeline available [here](#) details the efforts invested into the carefully-executed transition from SAIS to AzEDS.

### Strategy

As with any major technological transition, whether it is at Apple or ADE, there is an adjustment period. However, it is critical to understand that moving all LEAs to AzEDS by June 30, 2016 is **beneficial both long-term and immediately both for LEAs and students**.

Not only does ADE not have the resources to run SAIS and AzEDS simultaneously, but with **64 percent of all LEAs already transitioned to AzEDS**, we are too far down the implementation path to stop the transition now.

With AzEDS, Arizona is in a far better position now compared to where it was during its transition to SAIS. Many of you may recall that SAIS took two years to implement, and although there were far more serious problems with that transition, **all schools** received payments.

While we realize you are understandably anxious about the AzEDS implementation, our third-party, independent auditor, WestEd/CELT, recently provided ADE an outstanding review (see their statement [here](#)). They expressed confidence in the progress already made and recognized that our implementation and data system are positioning the state as a national leader in technological data infrastructure.

### Concerns With SAIS

Many LEAs are concerned when comparing the two systems because the data in SAIS and AzEDS do not match. The data does not match for two reasons:

1. The main issue with the transition is the inability of SAIS to process data that is currently being submitted from AzEDS to SAIS, which leads to the missing and inaccurate data that many LEAs have reported. **This is not the result of inaccuracies within AzEDS**. Imagine attempting to transfer all the information on an iPhone 6s to a rotary phone; that is the equivalent of attempting to move data from AzEDS to SAIS. AzEDS can process two million transactions per day, whereas it takes SAIS an entire day just to upload one large district's data.
2. AzEDS is a superior, real-time system that fully aligns with your student information systems. It is

both quicker and statutorily more accurate than SAIS; therefore, ***the data in the two systems will never match***. The business rules that are the foundation upon which AzEDS was built have been reviewed and tested, whereas SAIS' rules have not been examined or changed in **more than a decade and cannot be modified**. If the data did match, then the decision to construct a new system would have proven unnecessary.

A comparison chart that illustrates in detail the main differences between the two systems can be found [here](#).

### Current-Year Funding

ADE has been receiving feedback that intertwines the transition to AzEDS and the move to current-year funding for traditional districts, which are two completely separate initiatives. The agency is addressing both issues separately as ***current-year funding is not directly applicable*** to the SAIS-to-AzEDS process.

### Conclusion

While I appreciate the concerns expressed by stakeholder organizations, I want to reiterate that this transition **will not harm schools regardless of the obstacles that may arise**. I have complete confidence that LEAs will be paid appropriately and in a timely manner.

I realize that this transition has both financial and technological implications and that it can be painful to adjust to an unknown system. However, ADE has now reached a tipping point that would make it impossible to delay the implementation of AzEDS and maintain SAIS for another year. As a result, remaining on SAIS beyond July 1, 2016 would be both irresponsible and potentially destructive to the best interests of both your schools and, most importantly, our students.

Sincerely,

Mark Masterson  
Arizona Department of Education CIO

[www.azed.gov/aelas](http://www.azed.gov/aelas)



[Forward to Friend](#)   [unsubscribe from this list](#)   [update subscription preferences](#)

# Student Data Collection Change Request

---

## Change Type

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Data Element Collection      | <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue Data Element Collection |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional Code Value | <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue Code Value              |

## Proposed Change

### Data Element:

Withdrawal code

### Code Value:

W22- "moved out of country"

### Frequency:

In perpetuity

### Method of Collection:

AzEDS

### Year of Change:

2016-2017 (by year end)

### Dependencies:

SIS Vendors

## Mandate/Requirement and Reference

The adjusted cohort graduation rate is calculated by dividing the number of graduates in a cohort by the total number of students in the cohort. To accurately assess the number of years it takes students to graduate from high school, students are assigned to a cohort based on the first time a student enrolls in an Arizona public high school. The calculation of an adjusted cohort graduation rate is directly impacted by the number of students counted in a cohort as eligible to graduate. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), signed December 10, 2015, updates non-regulatory guidance on which students may be included and excluded from the adjusted cohort graduation rate ultimately reported for federal accountability, as well as A.R.S. 15-241 requirements for school accountability.

*“(B) COHORT REMOVAL.—To remove a student from a cohort, a school or local educational agency shall require documentation, or obtain documentation from the State educational agency, to confirm that the student has transferred out, **emigrated to another country**, or transferred to a prison or juvenile facility, or is deceased.”*

## Justification

This addition is required to ensure an accurate calculation of cohort graduation rates. AZEDS currently has no withdrawal code that identifies students who emigrate to another country; thus LEAs and ADE have no way to identify these students with appropriate documentation as eligible to be removed from the denominator of the graduation rate formula for the school, LEA, and state. Additionally, ADE has no other mechanism to collect this information from a 3<sup>rd</sup> party or deduce this information from existing data.

If approved, this collection would be available in AZEDS by end of year of FY17 so it can be used by LEAs and schools to describe the nature of exit for students in cohort 2017. Due to the reporting timelines, these data will be used for reporting by ADE in FY18.

## Impact

### Current Method of Collection:

Not currently collected

### Affected Stakeholders:

High Schools and Districts

### Estimated Population Impacted:

High Schools with high emigration

## Benefit or Impact of Change

Collecting this withdrawal code will ensure schools are accurately held accountable for cohort graduation rates. This information updates the set of circumstances preventing graduation and any undue penalty to graduation rate for schools, districts, and the state for students who move out of the country.