

# SAIS-to-AzEDS Transition Update

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Dear Colleague:

The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) is writing you today to notify you of significant changes to the SAIS replacement process for FY16. In order to ensure a smooth transition for districts and charters, SAIS will continue to be the system of record for FY16 state aid payments as we begin transitioning LEAs from SAIS to the Arizona Education Data Standards (AzEDS). This means your district or charter will use SAIS and SAIS Online to upload student data until you have been notified to use the new AzEDS system.

While the agency had originally hoped to accomplish this changeover in FY15, it has adopted a phased implementation schedule of about 80 LEAs a month to ensure the transition is a success for ADE and LEAs. By transitioning LEAs incrementally, ADE will avoid the “big bang” rollout that was set to occur this summer. This extra time also allows vendors to identify at least three LEAs for pilot testing for AzEDS, as well as provide support throughout the conversion.

With a testing environment being made available, this will ensure that your LEA will not move over to AzEDS until you are ready. This will allow production to not be disturbed and your data to remain sound.

Beginning in July, you will submit your student data using either SAIS or AzEDS. AzEDS will function as an input mechanism, allowing data submitted to be populated into SAIS beginning July 1. Regardless of which method you use to submit data, your state aid payments will be based on the data recorded in SAIS. ADE will replicate all submitted data into both SAIS and AzEDS in order to test the new system, while maintaining the integrity of the existing School Finance payments process.

If you choose to submit via SAIS, the SAIS reports will reflect *actual* ADM, Student Details and Payments as the system of record for FY16. If you submit using AzEDS, the AzEDS reports will demonstrate what the data and payments *will be* once the new AzEDS

system with business rules are rolled out for FY17.

We are committed to working with you to compare AzEDS reports to SAIS reports and address any discrepancies, since you will have access to two sets of reports this year. The AzEDS website [www.azed.gov/aelas/azeds](http://www.azed.gov/aelas/azeds)<sup>[1]</sup> has been updated to include the information and details you need to be ready for this transition, including a comparison of those reports.

We encourage you to visit this page frequently to remain updated with our progress. Also, we ask that you also take the time to share this communication with those staff members in your district or charter who will be impacted by this change in direction.

We also have a dedicated email box, [azeds@azed.gov](mailto:azeds@azed.gov)<sup>[2],[3]</sup> where you can direct your questions or concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact us so we may assist you.

Sincerely,  
The AzEDS Team

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#### Links

1. <http://www.azed.gov/aelas/azeds>
2. <mailto:azeds@azed.gov>
3. <mailto:azeds@azed.gov?subject=RE%3A%20SAIS-to-AzEDS%20Transition%20Update>