



## Quarterly Newsletter

OCTOBER 2012

ISSUE I

# First Order of Business...

The mission of the Research and Evaluation Division of the Arizona Department of Education is to serve the Department and Arizona’s education system by providing reliable and valid research, evaluation, and analyses of academic performance of Arizona’s students, public schools, charter holders, and districts. This includes providing public reports on education initiatives, policies, and programs.

The work of R&E includes the design and the publication of school and LEA

achievement profiles called A-F Letter Grades. For FY 2012, profiles included a letter grade A, B, C, D, or F.

The Division also conducts research on pertinent issues for the ADE, and performs program evaluations for various divisions within the ADE such as: the School Safety Division, School Improvement Division, Office of English Language Acquisition Services, Exceptional Student Services, Office of Indian Education, as well as the State

Board of Education and the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools.

We carry ourselves in a professional manner to foster ongoing working relationships within ADE as well as the community at large. We serve the ADE and ultimately, the public education system, throughout Arizona providing empirical and qualitative research that is reliable and valid fostering community understanding of the relevance of research and evaluation.

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION

[R&E Homepage](#)

### ACCOUNTABILITY BY THE NUMBERS

# 5

In 2012, the State Board of Education approved four separate A-F Letter Grade models to meet the “parallel accountability models” requirement in A.R.S. 15-247. These four models plus an LEA model were run in July for 2012 final A-F Letter Grades:

1. Traditional schools
2. Alternative schools
3. K-2 schools
4. Small schools
5. LEAs

Detailed information on all the models is available [here](#).

# 1,860

This past accountability season, 1860 schools and 585 LEAs received A-F Letter Grades.

# 408

In the 2012 accountability season, 408 schools earned an A-F Letter Grade of A.

## CURRENT RESEARCH

## Considerations for Analyzing Educators' Contributions to Student Learning in Non-tested Subjects and Grades with a Focus on Student Learning Objectives

Scott Marion, Charlie DePascale, Chris Domaleski, Brian Gong, and Elena Diaz-Bilello<sup>1</sup>

Center for Assessment  
May 25, 2012

### Introduction

Many state and district education leaders are rapidly reforming their educator evaluation systems with the results from student performance measures playing a significant role in the overall evaluation results. When conceiving these reforms, it appears that policy makers have not considered the huge challenge of including all teachers in these systems even though only one-quarter or so of the teaching force is in grades and subjects with at least two years of state test data. As discussed previously (Buckley & Marion; Marion & Buckley, 2011), many of the RTTT applications contained promises (or hopes) that states would use other forms of data in order to incorporate student performance results into the evaluations of teachers in “non-tested subjects and grades” (NTSG) or those not assessed by state standardized tests. Student learning objectives (SLO) have gained popularity as a means for attributing student performance results to educators in new forms of teacher evaluation systems for all teachers, but especially for those in NTSG.

<sup>1</sup> The authors acknowledge the thoughtful and useful feedback provided by Derek Briggs.

Click [here](#) to read the rest of this article on the Center for Assessment website.

## RESEARCH &amp; EVALUATION STAFF

## Meet the Team

Here is a brief introduction to the R&E team:

**Dr. Carrie L. Giovannone** is the Deputy Associate Superintendent of Research and Evaluation. Carrie has a Master's and PhD in Evaluation and Measurement from Kent State University. Carrie developed the ADE research bureau from the ground up focusing on Accountability, Research and Program Evaluation and manages the division. Carrie is the former Director of the NAEP Program for Arizona.

**Dr. Rebecca Bolnick** serves as the Director of Research for the ADE. Prior to joining ADE, Rebecca worked in policy research and analysis for state and federal agencies and the non-profit education research world. Rebecca holds a Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from Arizona State University.

**Dr. Xiaoyuan Tan** serves as the Senior

Research Scientist and the head statistician for the Research & Evaluation division. Her current research is focused on applications of the student growth model, specifically student growth percentiles and student growth targets, to Arizona state accountability system. Dr. Tan holds a PhD in Educational Psychology & Methodology and a M.S. in Biostatistics from the University at Albany, State University of New York.

**Dr. Nick Bishop** is currently a Research Associate in the Research and Evaluation Division at ADE. Nick received his Ph.D. in Sociology from Arizona State University in 2011. He specializes in quantitative research with special interests in longitudinal methods, social network analysis, and missing data

**Dr. Yating Tang** received her PhD in bilingual education from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 2010. She currently serves as a Program Evaluator in the Research and Evaluation Division of ADE. She is involved in several

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### Letter from Carrie...

Welcome to the 2012-2013 school year! The past year has been a very busy one for the Research and Evaluation Division of the Arizona Department of Education (R&E). The significant changes that you have seen to Arizona's accountability system this past year have certainly kept our staff busy! After releasing the first round of A-F Letter Grades for “traditional schools,” along with the AZ Learns Legacy labels for all schools in 2011, we got right to work on the parallel A-F Letter Grade models for small schools, K-2 schools, and alternative schools as well as the LEA model.

Our team also worked closely with the School Improvement division on the ESEA Waiver documentation. We are currently calculating all the deliverables approved by the USED in our conditional waiver on July 19, 2012.

We are very excited about the projects we are unveiling this school year and look forward to holding workshops to gather your feedback. The full implementation of these initiatives is contingent on how useful you find them to be for the schools. As always, I encourage you to contact us with any questions or suggestions you have. We are very excited about the research and evaluation projects, and look forward to providing you with the best information possible to assist you in your work.

*Carrie*

research projects such as the Free Throws computer program evaluation, teacher and principal evaluation, and district satisfaction survey design and administration.

**Hildie Cohen** is the OELAS Research Associate. She conducts research on English Language Learners (ELL) and oversees all State and Federal reporting on ELLs. Hildie has a Master's degree from the University of Illinois in Measurement, Evaluation, Statistics and Assessment and a Master's degree in Sociology from Northwestern University.

**Nadia Ghani** is the Research and Evaluation Consultant for School Safety and Prevention. Her responsibilities include providing design, data collection and analysis support for the Safe and

Supportive Schools Grant, School Safety Program and the HIV/AIDS Program.

**M.H. Jayanthi** has been a Research Associate with R&E since 2008. She has a Bachelor's degree in Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics. Jayanthi is the head data analyst and is responsible for generating many of the reports that R&E makes available to the public.

**Forster Okoli** is a Data Analyst and Research Specialist for the Exceptional Students Services unit of the ADE. Forster holds a Master's degree in Agricultural Resource Economics with specialization in Econometrics and a Master of Public Administration degree. Both degrees are from the University of Arizona.

**Catherine Osborn** is a Research & Evaluation Consultant for the ADE with

a Master's degree in Education and a Master's degree in Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation from Arizona State University. She has 7 years teaching experience and over 20 years' experience conducting research.

**Aleks Kadijevic** is the R&E Office Manager and has been with ADE since 2005. She is responsible for planning workshops, posting information on the public page, and answering questions from schools/LEAs and constituents.

## DID YOU KNOW?

You can find a comprehensive step-by-step guide to our Common Logon application [here](#).

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### October 2012

- Research and Evaluation 2013 Annual External Customer Satisfaction Survey: please be on the lookout for an email from [Achieve@azed.gov](mailto:Achieve@azed.gov) regarding the survey. It should only take five minutes to complete and will greatly assist us in serving you better.
- Late Receipt Schools A-F Letter Grades: The A-F Letter Grades and Federal Accountability for those schools with significant issues in their test packaging to Pearson were calculated separately, once all data have been received and verified.

### December 2012

- The Status of Native American Students: ADE produces an annual report on the status of Native American Students. Learn more about the work of the ADE Indian Education Office and read our past reports [here](#).

## USEFUL LINKS

A-F Letter Grades are available [here](#).

ESEA Flexibility Request details are [here](#).

R&E Customer Survey Results are located [here](#).