



State of Arizona  
Department of Education

## Quick Guide to Annual Measureable Objectives (AMO)

AMOs are unique yearly proficiency targets in reading and mathematics for each subgroup, school and district, as described in Arizona's Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Request. AMO determinations provide a single-year snapshot of school and district/charter holder performance.

AMOs are calculated and reported for both schools and districts/charter holders (entities). There are two possible AMO determinations: an entity can either *meet* AMO or *not meet* AMO.

The No Child Left Behind Act requires that every public school and district/charter holder in a state be evaluated on three measures:

1. Progress toward meeting the goal of 100 percent proficiency in state standards;
2. Percentage of students assessed; and
3. Additional indicators of school performance such as graduation rate for high schools (entities serving grades 9 through 12) and attendance rate for elementary schools (entities serving grades 3 through 8).

In order to meet AMOs, schools and districts/charter holders must meet the objectives for all three measures for all students in all subject/grade combinations and for every applicable subgroup within each subject/grade combination.

NCLB specifies the following subgroups be evaluated: the five major ethnic groups—Hispanic, White, African-American, Asian-Pacific Islander, and Native American—plus English Language Learners (ELL), students with disabilities (SPED), and students from low-income families.

### Proficiency

NCLB Flexibility Request requires all Arizona students (100%) be proficient on state and grade level standards by the year 2020. To meet this goal, the state set annual measurable objectives targets for each grade and subject evaluated. Arizona assesses grades three through eight and high school. The annual measurable objectives define the annual increase needed for Arizona to reach the 100 percent proficiency requirement by 2015-2016. To *meet* AMO, an entity must reach the AMO targets for both mathematics and reading/language arts in each tested grade it offers and within all applicable subgroups.



**Percentage of students assessed**

In order for a school or district/charter holder to *meet* AMO, it must assess 95 percent of students enrolled at the time of testing for each subject, in every grade offered, including each applicable subgroup.

**Additional indicators**

To *meet* AMOs, an entity serving high school grades must have a four-year graduation rate of 80 percent or a two percentage-point improvement in the graduation rate over the previous year.

For entities serving elementary school grades, the performance goal is an attendance rate of 90 percent or a one percentage-point improvement in the attendance rate over the previous year.

