



**State of Arizona
Department of Education**

Kathy Hoffman
Superintendent of
Public Instruction

To: **Alternate Assessment Test Coordinators**

From: **Bethany Spangenberg**, Director of Alternate Assessment

Date: September 4, 2020

ALERT: 2020 AIMS A Science Results/Reporting Portal; And Assessments Updates

Welcome back, Test Coordinators. This is already looking to be a challenging school year. There are a lot of questions with few answers. As far as alternate assessments, I know many of you have had questions that we didn't have answers to yet. Here is an update of where we are as of today.

2020 AIMS A Science reports

AIMS A Science student reports are currently being shipped to the Alternate Assessment Test Coordinator. One copy is sent home to parents/guardians and the other copy is placed in the student's secure file. The AIMS A Science reporting portal will be open through September 30. Test Coordinators will need to log into **ADEConnect – ESS Portal – Alternate Assessments**. From there you will see the "Administration" tab with a "Reports" option in the drop-down menu.

Spring 2021 Administration

The US Department of Education recently sent out a notification to State Assessment Directors. This letter clearly stated that they are not planning on issuing any testing waivers for the 2020-2021 school year. At this point, we are planning on administering all assessments. More information on what will be allowed for administration will be provided in training modules and Arizona's state-specific policy.

Furthermore, Arizona received a waiver so that we do not need to double test our students in science. Therefore, we will only be administering the Science Alternate Assessment for our science test this year. The assessment provided by the MSAA vendor will be available in the same testing platform and will have the same administration dates as ELA and Mathematics. We will no longer be administering AIMS A Science.

Assessment Conference

As with most conferences, we needed to approach our first annual assessment conference differently than originally planned. We will have a series of webinars to present important information for assessments. Registration is now open for these webinars. Information on registering for these webinars was sent out by the assessment unit earlier this week.

Instructional Supports

There are many supports available to help you as you navigate instructional experiences for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.



**State of Arizona
Department of Education**

The [TIES Center](#) has published several resources to support [distance learning](#) for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities within any LRE. The website includes general resources for parents and provides guidance for implementing inclusion practices. One recent publication is a new resource for instructional planning for students with significant cognitive disabilities whether instruction is at school, at home during distance learning or in a hybrid situation. [DL #17: Planning for Instruction both at School and Distance Learning: The 5C Process](#). We encourage you to check out this resource and the other great support documents the TIES Center has available.

The new [MSAA Website](#) is now available. A few resources have already been posted such as the writing rubrics and core content connectors. Look for more of the NCSC resources to be moved to the new MSAA website throughout the year.

If you have any questions or have access problems, please do not hesitate to contact us at AssessingSWDs@azed.gov