



AzM2 Grade 10 Mathematics Assessment Purpose and Talking Points – Spring 2021

The purpose of the Grade 10 math assessment is to assess what students know and can do in relation to the Arizona Mathematics Standards (Revised 2016). U.S. Department of Education required all states to administer content-based assessments annually in Grades 3-8 and once in high school and must be aligned to the State Academic Content Standards.

In order to meet this federal requirement, ADE and the State Board developed the Grade 10 math assessment focusing on the Algebra 1 and Geometry standards. ADE brought in Arizona educators to develop a blueprint with 60% Algebra and 40% Geometry items. The single Grade 10 math assessment was planned to be implemented in the Spring of 2020 and used again in the Spring administration of 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, testing in Spring 2020 was cancelled, and the first and only administration will be the Spring of 2021.

- The AzM2 Grade 10 Math Assessment will only be administered one time (Spring 2021).
- The following year, ADE will be transitioning to the following high school Assessments: ACT Aspire Grade 9 and ACT Grade 11, per the State Board approved 5 Year Assessment Plan.
- Given that this assessment will only be administered one time, only Performance Levels will be reported out (school, district, and individual student reports).

Traditionally, anytime a new assessment is administered, a full standard setting must take place to set new cut scores for the test. Standard setting is a timely and costly process to complete for a one-time assessment. ADE met with national experts to discuss other possible alternatives to standard setting.

- ADE consulted with U.S. Department of Education and shared this predicament and they provided some possible solutions for reporting without doing a full standard setting.
- ADE convened the AZ Assessment Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), which includes national assessment experts, psychometric experts, and local district representatives, to advise and discuss all possible options. The recommendation was to move forward with the Grade 10 math assessment comprised of Algebra 1 and Geometry Standards. This had been communicated to LEAs beginning in 2018.
- ADE worked with the AZ TAC and the assessment vendor to use the existing scale to determine performance levels. It was determined that ADE should use the established Geometry scale since it is the scale used for students in Grade 10.

ADE held a webinar, *Lunch and Learn: AzM2 Grade 10 Math Reporting*, on January 29, 2021. The slides, recording, and FAQ are posted on the ADE Assessment webpage: <https://www.azed.gov/assessment>, under Friday Focus Webinars Tab - Lunch and Learn - Grade 10 Math.