



State of Arizona  
Department of Education

March 16, 2016

Dear AZELLA Test Coordinators and ELL Directors,

This letter is to inform you of the need to administer an AZELLA Placement test to a limited group of Grade 2 students before the end of the school year due to a change in their ELL classification.

The ELL classification change for these students is due to the testing procedures in place for School Years 2012-13 and 2013-14 when Kindergarten Initial Fluent English Proficient (IFEP) students were included in the Spring AZELLA Reassessment. The IFEP students who did not pass the Reassessment test were offered ELL services. At ADE's direction, the IFEP students who did not accept the offer of ELL services kept the classification of IFEP. ADE has changed the classification of these students to ELL-Parent Withdrawal students. As ELL-Parent-Withdrawal students, their English proficiency must be assessed this school year as mandated by federal Title III requirements. The required testing of these students, who are now in Grade 3 or Grade 2, will be accomplished through the administration of an AzMERIT ELA test to the Grade 3 students and an AZELLA Placement test to the Grade 2 students.

**No special action is required for the newly reclassified ELL-Parent Withdrawal Grade 3 students.** They, like other Grade 3 students, will participate in AzMERIT testing in the coming weeks.

**Special action is required for the newly reclassified ELL-Parent Withdrawal Grade 2 students.** Schools must administer an AZELLA Placement test to these students before the end of the school year. This special administration of the AZELLA Placement test may wait until all AZELLA Reassessment testing is complete and the Reassessment test materials have been returned to the vendor.

ADE has developed a "Newly Reclassified ELL-Parent Withdrawal Students" application on ADEConnect which lists all newly reclassified Grade 2 students by school or district. AZELLA District Test Coordinators will have access to this application beginning at 9:00 am on Thursday, March 17. Please review these lists of students, order additional AZELLA Stage II Placement Test Books as needed, and schedule testing for these students well before the close of AZELLA Placement testing on May 20, 2016.

Any of the newly reclassified students who pass an AzMERIT ELA test or an AZELLA test will be classified as Reclassified Fluent English Proficient (RFEP) students and will no longer require annual English proficiency assessment. The newly reclassified Grade 3 students, who do not pass an AzMERIT ELA test, will require an AZELLA Placement test at the start of School Year 2016-17. More information about that will be provided later. Any of the newly reclassified Grade 2 students who do not pass an AZELLA test are eligible for ELL services. If ELL services are accepted, the students will be considered ELL students; otherwise, these students will remain ELL-Parent Withdrawal students. Starting in School Year 2016-17, the SDELL70 and SDELL73 reports will include the correct classification of all newly reclassified students based on Spring 2016 testing. Students classified as ELL or ELL-Parent Withdrawal students will require annual AZELLA assessment until they demonstrate proficiency.

How the testing and performance of these newly reclassified students will be included in any ELL Accountability has yet to be determined.

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