

The Grader

Alternative School Application CLOSING

As a reminder, the application for Alternative School Status will close on **Tuesday January 15th at 5:00pm**. In order to accommodate all Accountability deadlines and to ensure the timely processing of Alternative School Status applications, no applications received after the deadline can be reviewed or considered.

All schools that meet the criteria of an alternative school [here](#) are encouraged to apply for Alternative School status. Please note that individual programs cannot apply for alternative school status, the entire school must meet the requirements of, and apply for alternative school status. Alternative School Status is used to identify schools that will receive an A-F Letter Grade using a State Board of Education approved Alternative School A-F model.

If you have questions about applying for alternative school status please contact Achieve@azed.gov.

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Dropout and Graduation Rate Clarification

The Accountability and Research team has recently received questions on whether a student who was coded with a “year-end” or “withdrawal” code in their prior school, is automatically removed from their prior cohort once they are enrolled in a new school. For example, if a school codes a student as a W4 (10 consecutive days of unexcused absence or status unknown) and they enroll in another school, are they still in the original school’s cohort? The answer is yes, if the original school does not determine where the student has gone and change the W4 code.

If a student’s last enrollment in the school ended with a W4 code, the student will be counted against the original school’s graduation rate (as well as dropout rate). The school needs to check their Dropout Tracker Report and follow up with the new school if they know where the student might have gone. Once the prior school receives documentation, they **MUST** change the W4 code to the appropriate W code (i.e. W1) to remove the student from their cohort.

Dropout Tracker Report—STUD79

The Dropout Tracker Report in the AzEDS Portal tracks whether students coded as W4/S4 or W5/S5 have subsequent enrollment in the same fiscal year. Schools should be reviewing this report and updating prior data in order to report accurate numbers for A-F and federal reporting purposes.

School Report Cards Survey

As you now know, the School Report Cards website launched last month. The ADE Report Card team is already hard at work on future updates and improvements from all of your helpful suggestions and feedback. In discussions with schools, LEAs, and other important stakeholders, it was discovered that there was a huge desire to have a section of the report cards website available for schools to share more information about themselves in a new “**School Characteristics**” section. As we develop this exciting new feature which is planned to launch by the end of the first quarter of 2019, we are soliciting your valuable feedback and input.

Please review the information about this new section, and share your thoughts on our survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/J6CDSYK>.

Feel free to share this survey broadly with your fellow stakeholders; but note, the survey will close on Sunday January 20th at midnight.

A-F Proposed Models Public Comment

Public comment is currently open on the proposed A-F models for K-8, 9-12 and Alternative schools. We would encourage you to review the models and complete the appropriate public comment survey through the State Board of Education website [here](#).

Foster Care and Parent in Military Indicators

Under ESSA we are required to report about the subgroups “Foster Care” and “Parent in Military”. Both of these subgroups are collected and reported in schools’ Student Information System (SIS). In order to ensure that this reporting is as accurate as possible we encourage all entities to review this data for their students and ensure it is up to date and current.