



Important Statewide Testing Information - Updates March 24, 2020

District Test Coordinators,

Given the widespread and extended school closures as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the U.S. Department of Education has announced that it is providing flexibility to States regarding the assessment and accountability requirements for the 2019-2020 school year. Upon a proper request, the Department will grant a waiver to any State that is unable to assess its students due to the ongoing national emergency, providing relief from federally mandated testing requirements for this school year.

The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) will submit a request for a waiver of assessments, accountability and school identification, and reporting requirements for the 2019-2020 school year. This action is pending approval from the State Board of Education. The U.S. Department of Education has stated that any waiver submitted will be reviewed and a determination will be provided to the State no more than two days from its submission. We will continue to communicate any updates to you as they become available.

AZELLA Updates:

As soon as local circumstances permit, **ship** all **Spring 2020 AZELLA Reassessment scorable and non-scorable materials** to Pearson using the shipping labels and boxes that were provided with the testing materials. Districts and charters that have access to their campus and offices and have AZELLA scorable and non-scorable test materials are encouraged to return them to Pearson now. This will allow scoring to begin so that results can be made available later this school year. Stage I and II Student Test Books that have Pre-ID labels or for which the demographic page was filled out, should be shipped as scorable materials. Student Test Books belonging to a school where no AZELLA Reassessment was started for any students must be shipped as non-scorable materials.

In order to receive AZELLA Reports for the Spring 2020 AZELLA Reassessment, districts must ship their materials to Pearson using the provided UPS labels no later than April 24, 2020, to be received by Pearson by May 1, 2020. Any materials received after May 1, 2020 may not be scored and students may not receive AZELLA Reassessment results.

Once schools are back in session, ADE will provide further guidance on options for administering AZELLA to students who were not administered a 2020 Spring Reassessment test or who did not complete all units of the test.

ACT (Menu of Assessments) Updates:

Districts and charters that have access to their campus and offices and have received ACT test materials for either testing window (March 24 or April 7) are encouraged to return materials to ACT now. Materials may be returned as instructed in the Collecting, Packing, and Returning Materials section of the Test Coordinator Information Manual or may be dropped off at a FedEx office. Please get a receipt for any materials dropped off at a FedEx office.

ADE and the State Board of Education are working with ACT regarding options for the Menu of Assessments test dates.

AzM2 and AIMS Science Updates: No new updates.

MSAA Updates: No new updates.

