



The Examiner



MAY 2020 EDITION

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We hope this edition of the Assessment quarterly newsletter finds you well. We have been busy the last couple of weeks submitting waivers, readjusting work with our vendors, transitioning to teleworking, and ensuring we are communicating with all of you. We have posted the recent Assessment Updates on the main [Assessment page](#). We hope you have adjusted to a new learning environment and supporting both teachers and students in your communities. It has been great to learn about all the innovative ways schools are continuing learning!

The Assessment team continues to work on test development for future tests as Spring 2021 will be a busy one. We will have the following stand-alone field tests in addition to the operational tests:

- AZELLA (Spring 2021) based on the new design aligned to the newly adopted ELP Standards
- AzSCI in Grades 5, 8, and 11
- Science Alternate Assessment (Pilot)

These stand-alone field tests will have specific test windows in the spring. The tentative dates will be included in each program’s section of this edition. ADE intends to make these additional tasks as “easy” as possible to complete. We are creating field test forms that will be slightly shorter than the operational test forms in 2022 to reduce burdens where we can.

We are including a link to the [2020-2021 Detailed Test Calendar](#) which has test windows for all Statewide Assessments and NAEP.

We will be working to submit a waiver this summer that would waive the requirement to test students on both AzSCI and AIMS Science in Grade 8 only. However, at this time, students in Grade 8 for the 2020-2021 school year will be required to participate in both the AzSCI field test and AIMS Science.

Assessment Test Coordinator and Security Agreement

All districts/charters are asked to submit the 2020-2021 *Assessment Test Coordinator and Security Agreement* by **June 30, 2020**. This form requires the names and contact information for each of the Achievement Testing, Alternate Assessment, and AZELLA District Test Coordinators and must be signed by the Superintendent/Charter Representative and each of the designated District Test Coordinators prior to the start of any 2020-2021 state assessments. This form can be found on the ADE [District Test Coordinators](#) website under DTC Resources for School Year 2020-2021.

AzSCI

Tentative AIMS Science and AzSCI Field Testing Windows for Spring 2021

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| AIMS Science | March 22 – April 16, 2021 |
| AzSCI Field Test | March 22 – April 30, 2021 |

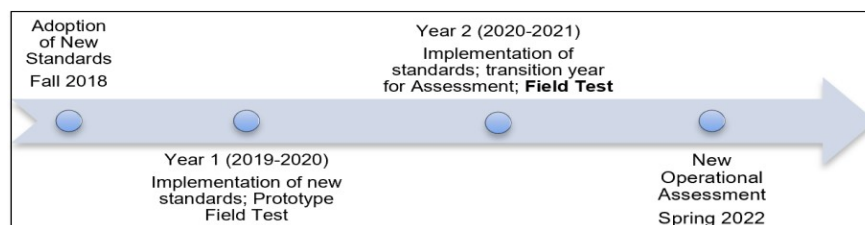
AzSCI Field Test: We are currently in Year 2 of implementation of the new Science Standards. The AzSCI Field Test will be administered at Grades 5, 8, and 11 in Spring 2021.

Grade 5 (content from Grades 3, 4, and 5)

Grade 8 (content from Grades 6, 7, and 8)

Grade 11 - In Arizona, students are required to take 3 credits of high school science aligned to the **28 essential standards in physical, earth and space, and life sciences** to meet graduation requirements, but there is no mandatory course sequence across the state. Because of this, the high school standards are written at two levels: essential and plus.

- All high school essential standards (HS) should be learned by every high school student regardless of the 3-credit course sequence they take. The full set of essential high school (HS) standards is designed to be taught over a 3-year period. **Essential High School Science Standards are designed to provide opportunities for students to develop understanding of all 14 core ideas across three credits of high school science.**



Item Review: We would like to invite educators to help us review AzSCI test items this summer. This review will include classroom teachers, Science content area teachers, teachers of students with disabilities, teachers of EL students, instructional coaches, and administrators so we have a wide range of feedback on the test items.

At this time, we are not certain if this item review committee will be in person or virtual. Please forward the committee application link to all teachers and administrators in your district/charter: <https://www.azed.gov/assessment/committee-app/>. Applicants will be contacted by May 30, 2020 if selected for this committee.

Sample Test: We will be adding an AzSCI Sample Test to the TestNav website in the fall. The item sets taken from the Spring 2020 Prototype Field Test will be released to help educators and students see how the new Science standards will be assessed.

AzM2
Tentative AzM2 Testing Windows for Spring 2021

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Paper-Based Test (PBT) Window | April 5 – April 14, 2021 (Writing must be scheduled for April 5 or 6.) |
| Computer-Based Test (CBT) Window | April 5 – April 30, 2021 (Writing must be completed by April 16.) |

Item Review: We are looking for educators in Grades 3-8 and teachers of students with disabilities, teachers of EL students, instructional coaches, and administrators to review ELA and Math items in August or September. At this time, we are not certain if this item review committee will be in person or virtual. If you have educators and administrators who are interested in reviewing test items, please ask them to submit an updated committee application form: <https://www.azed.gov/assessment/committee-app/>.

Menu of Assessments (MOA)

2019–2020 Fall Testing Options for Cohort 2021: Options for Fall testing have been communicated to MOA DTCs and is dependent on approval from the Legislature to use funds to reimburse in FY21. For more information see the [April 20, 2021 email sent to MOA DTCs](#).

2020–2021 Participation Notification: The 2020-2021 Menu of Assessments Notification Portal will be open May 11 – July 1, 2020. Any LEA that is interested in participating in the 2020-2021 Menu of Assessments must complete and submit the notification survey by July 1, 2020. An email with instructions, additional details, and the link to the portal will be sent out to all DTC the week of May 4th.

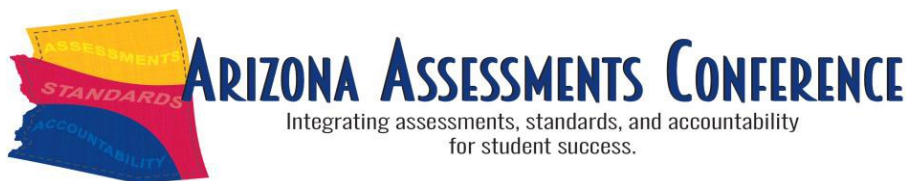
Other important information/documents that should be reviewed regarding Menu of Assessments from the Board of Education: <https://azsbe.az.gov/assessments-and-menu-assessments>

2020 - 2021 List of Vendors. SAT has been added to the list of vendors.

2020 - 2021 Menu of Assessment Policy

2020 - 2021 Technical Assistance Document

If you have any questions regarding Menu of Assessments, please email Testing@azed.gov.



At this time, we are continuing to move forward with the planning of the first **Arizona Assessments Conference: Integrating assessments, standards, and accountability**, for September 28-30, 2020 at Renaissance Phoenix Glendale Hotel. More information can be found on our conference page at <https://www.azed.gov/assessment/conference/>.

Conference Session Proposals: <https://www.azed.gov/assessment/session-proposal-form/>. The deadline for session proposals has been extended to **June 1, 2020**.

Registration is now open: <https://ems.azed.gov/home/Calendar?sd=7487>. The conference registration fee is \$425 per participant and includes breakfast, lunch, and parking each day.

Lodging: <https://www.azed.gov/assessment/lodging/>. Our group room rate of \$121 (or prevailing Arizona state per diem rate) is available until August 27, 2020 or until sold out. We recommend that guest room reservations be made early.

MSAA – The MSAA system is closed and testing has been canceled for the 2019-2020 school year. Professional development certificates have been emailed to alternate assessment test coordinators. There are some final tasks that need to be completed as you are able:

- All secure materials including Braille cards, DTAs, and paper tests must be securely destroyed.
- Downloaded materials must be deleted from your desktops, laptops, tablets, or other devices. TAMs are not secure materials and may be recycled.

AIMS A Science – Please return the AIMS A Science performance task materials as soon as possible. You may contact the Alternate Assessment Inbox at AssessingSWDs@azed.gov if you have misplaced your return label. The reporting portal will be open in August. Paper copies of student reports will be shipped the week of August 17.

Tentative Alternate Assessment Testing Windows for Spring 2021

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| AIMS A Science (Grades 4, 8, 10) | February 1 – February 26, 2021 |
| MSAA ELA and Math (Grades 3-8, 11) | Mid-March through early May 2021 |
| MSAA Science Field Test (Grades 5, 8, 11) | Mid-March through late April 2021 |

1% Threshold – Monitoring for exceeding the 1% Threshold for the 2019 administration has not yet begun. Notifications will be sent to Alternate Assessment Test Coordinators at each LEA with students participating in alternate assessments. Instructions and timelines will be provided for LEAs with over 1% participation in any content area.

Instructional Supports – TIES Center is the national technical assistance center on inclusive practices and policies. Its purpose is to create sustainable changes in kindergarten–grade 8 school and district educational systems so that students with significant cognitive disabilities can fully engage in the same instructional and non-instructional activities as their general education peers while being instructed in a way that meets individual learning needs. Check out the TIES Center at <https://tiescenter.org/> for a variety of resources on supporting students with significant cognitive disabilities including new work to support distance learning.



We are available: If you have a question or comment specific to the Alternate Assessments, email us at AssessingSWDs@azed.gov.

Wrapping-up AZELLA for School Year 2019–2020

Thank you all for ensuring student tests were administered and returned! ADE extended the deadline to return Scorable and Non-scorable test materials due to COVID-19. We know this was not an easy task under these conditions. As shared via email, all student results will also be delayed for our state.

Spring 2020 Reassessment Score Reports

- **June 29, 2020** – electronic copies of the reports and the student data files will be posted on PearsonAccess^{next} (PAN). The test records will be on the EL70 Reports or in the AZELLA Corrections application in ADEConnect around the same time.

Please refer to the *AZELLA Spring 2020 AZELLA Reassessment PearsonAccess^{next} User's Guide* (Part 6, pages 114-116) for the directions to view, download, and save the **AZELLA Spring 2020 Reassessment Published Test Results and the Student Data File**.

AZELLA Corrections Application

The AZELLA Corrections application in ADEConnect lists students with unmatched test records for both Placement and Reassessment testing. **All School Year 2019–2020 Placement Test and Reassessment Test corrections must be completed by July 14, 2020.**

AZELLA Testing for School Year 2020–2021

Assessment Test Coordinator and Test Security Agreement

Every school year the Arizona Department of Education requires an updated *Assessment Test Coordinator and Test Security Agreement* form to be completed with all required signatures and filed for each district and charter. This 2020-2021 document must be submitted to Testing@azed.gov before AZELLA testing can begin.

Placement Testing 2020–2021

- An SSID will be required to create and register students in PAN for Placement testing.
- Retain current inventory of the AZELLA Kindergarten Placement Test and the Stage II Placement Test materials since the tests continue to be administered via paper-and-pencil.
- AZELLA Placement Stages III, IV, and V continue to be computer-based tests using TestNav. Give students an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the testing application, navigation, and tools by allowing them to take (at least a few items of each unit of) the Sample Test.

AZELLA Placement Training Modules 2020–2021

- **July 6, 2020**
 - *Understand Scoring* opens with training and qualifications for AZELLA Kindergarten Placement Test Administrators and AZELLA Stage II Writing Scorers opens. **All** users must create a new login User ID and password for School Year 2020–2021.

- **July 13, 2020**

- Annual **AZELLA Placement Test Training** modules opens for AZELLA District Test Coordinators through the [AZELLA Training Management System \(ATMS\)](#). AZELLA District Test Coordinators will be sent an email with login information by July 10.
- AZELLA DTC PAN accounts will be enabled within 48 hours and once ADE verifies that **all required** Placement training modules have been completed and ADE received the 2020-2021 Assessment Test Coordinator and Security Agreement with the required signatures.
- AZELLA DTCs are required to deliver an in-person or live virtual training for their district and schools AZELLA staff specifically including district testing policies and procedures, test security, testing schedules, and test materials. DTCs must also ensure that all Test Administrators read through the TAD(s) for the Stage(s) they will be administering in 2020-2021. This is an opportunity for the DTC to clarify or address any questions or concerns that the AZELLA staff may have.
- DTCs and/or STCs must monitor the completions of AZELLA Placement Training modules that are required for the AZELLA staff. PAN accounts for those who require one cannot be enabled by the AZELLA DTC or STC for AZELLA staff until all required training modules have been completed and the AZELLA Test Security form has been signed.

AZELLA Placement Test Materials and Test Administration 2020-2021

After an AZELLA District Test Coordinator's (DTC) PearsonAccess^{next} account is enabled by ADE, the DTC may:

- place an order for additional Kindergarten and Stage II Placement Test materials,
- add additional district and school user accounts in PAN, and
- complete student Placement Test registrations.

2 weeks prior to the first day of school – Administration of the AZELLA Placement Test may begin for students provided all the 2020–2021 requirements have been met by the AZELLA DTC, STCs, **and** the AZELLA staff.

Within the first 2 weeks of school for SY 2020-2021:

- Students (all grades except for 2019-2020 KG students who were retained) who were **NOT** administered the Spring 2020 Reassessment Test, may be administered the Placement Test.
- Students who are showing as EL Group 8 on the EL73 Report must be administered a **full** AZELLA Placement Test to determine eligibility for EL Services.
- Students who completed the Spring 2020 Reassessment Test and completed an ELD summer course may **qualify** for the [Moving from EL Services to Mainstream](#) referral. If so, these students may be administered a **full** AZELLA Placement Test with a completed referral form but only within the first 2 weeks of the school year.

The **AZELLA 2020–2021 Placement Test District Student File Layout** will be posted on PearsonAccess^{next} in the Placement Test administration under the Support > Documentation section.



2020–2021 AZELLA Placement Test Scoring Cycles

| Cycle | Last key entry date of student responses and scores in PearsonAccess^{next} | Electronic results posted in PearsonAccess^{next}; Placement Test record to EL70 Report or AZELLA Corrections Application | Paper reports from Pearson arrive at District offices |
|--------------|--|--|--|
| 1 | 7/31/2020 | 8/20/2020 | 9/03/2020 |
| 2 | 8/14/2020 | 9/03/2020 | 9/10/2020 |
| 3 | 8/28/2020 | 9/17/2020 | 9/24/2020 |
| 4 | 9/11/2020 | 10/01/2020 | 10/08/2020 |
| 5 | 10/09/2020 | 10/29/2020 | 11/05/2020 |
| 6 | 11/13/2020 | 12/03/2020 | 12/10/2020 |
| 7 | 12/18/2020 | 1/07/2021 | 1/14/2021 |
| 8 | 1/22/2021 | 2/11/2021 | 2/18/2021 |
| 9 | 2/19/2021 | 3/04/2021 | 3/11/2021 |
| 10 | 3/19/2021 | 4/08/2021 | 4/15/2021 |
| 11 | 4/16/2021 | 5/06/2021 | 5/13/2021 |
| 12 | 5/14/2021 | 6/03/2021 | 6/10/2021 |

Tentative AZELLA Reassessment Testing Window for Spring 2021 is February 1- March 19, 2021. Stages I and II will be pencil-and-paper tests and Stages III–V will be administered online.

2021 AZELLA Stand-Alone Field Test window is February 1 - April 2, 2021. All EL students will be administered this field test in accordance to the 2019 ELP Standards Grade Configuration concurrently with the Spring 2021 Reassessment and Placement Test administrations. Kindergarten and Grades 1 will be paper-and-pencil tests; Grades 2-3 will be administered in a hybrid modality (online and paper-and-pencil); Grades 4 through 12 will be online tests. The AZELLA Stand-Alone Field Test will be a shorter test (approximately half) than the Spring Reassessment Test. More details to come!

AZELLA Art Contest Update

Due to the extended school closures as a result of COVID-19, the AZELLA Art Contest has been postponed until Fall 2020. Some artwork submissions have already been received by our office, and these will be held and included in the art contest in the fall. More details regarding the Fall 2020 AZELLA Art Contest will be sent to AZELLA District Test Coordinators as they become available.

If you have any questions regarding AZELLA, please email AZELLA@azed.gov



COVID-19 has affected us all. NAEP is taking steps to reduce the burden on districts and schools by: (1) postponing the distribution of NAEP 2021 school samples to state and TUDAs, from May to summer 2020; (2) delaying recruitment and scheduling of district and schools; and (3) delaying plans to implement a three-block design for NAEP, which means all students will participate in the traditional two-block design in the upcoming school year 2020-2021.

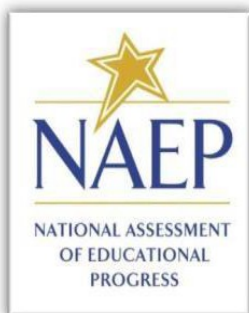
NAEP 2021 will assess Mathematics and Reading at Grades 4 and 8. Civics and U.S. History will be assessed at Grade 8. NAEP 2021 is a completely digitally based assessment.

Future plans will include NAEP transitioning to a 3 block design layout for the assessment. This will lessen the impact of the assessment on more schools. This change will increase the amount of testing time an individual student spends on the assessment, however this change will allow for a future reduction in both the number of students and schools sampled in the future. ADE will keep you informed of when the transition will occur.

Future Design of NAEP (Transition year plan)

- One-subject, two-block component—78% of students, 75% of schools
 - Two 30-minute cognitive sections
 - Reading/reading (RR) or mathematics/mathematics (MM)
 - One 15-minute student questionnaire section (Core, Subject Specific)
 - Totals about 2 hours of student time
 - Two sequential sittings of 25 students per school (typical) for a total of 50 students
 - Three-block component—22% of students, 25% of schools

- Three 30-minute cognitive sections
 - RRR, RRM, MMR, or MMM
 - One or 2 subject student questionnaires section (Core, Math Subject Specific and/or Reading Subject Specific)
 - CAFS (Computer Access and Familiarity Survey) will be administered to students taking one subject
 - Totals about 3 hours of student time
 - One session of 40 students per school (typical)



If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

Mr. Gary McIlvaine, AZ Director of NAEP and International Assessments

Gary.McIlvaine@azed.gov

(602) 364-1583

www.azed.gov/assessment/naep