



# **Assessments Webinar Series #1: The State of Assessments and Accountability - An Overview for the 2020-2021 School Year**

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**Arizona Department of Education**

# Welcome to Webinar #1: The State of Assessments – An Overview of 2020-2021 School Year

***This webinar will be recorded and posted on the ADE Assessments webpage.***

***Please enter your First and Last Name in the Chat for tracking purposes for the live event.***

***We will also be capturing the chat questions. If there are questions that were frequently asked or need further clarification, ADE will compile and create an FAQ which will then be distributed to DTCs.***

# Welcome and Overview

- ADE Assessments Team will have 5 more webinar sessions in this series for the 2020-2021 school year
- These will be recorded and posted on the Assessments Webpage
- ***This session will spotlight what has transpired over the last year and a plan for moving forward with test administration and accountability***

# 2019 - 2020 Test Administration



## Assessments

Arizona Department of Education  
Assessment Section

### Test Administration Status 2019 - 2020

Test	Status	Results/Accountability
AzM2 (ELA and Mathematics)	Did not administer	None
AIMS Science	Did not administer	None
MSAA (ELA and Mathematics)	Did not administer	None
AIMS A Science	Administered	None
AZELLA Reassessment	Administered	None

## Official Assessment and Accountability Waiver Documentation

***ADE Waiver Request letter:***

***<https://cms.azed.gov/home/GetDocumentFile?id=5e84fcd403e2b318984cc803>***

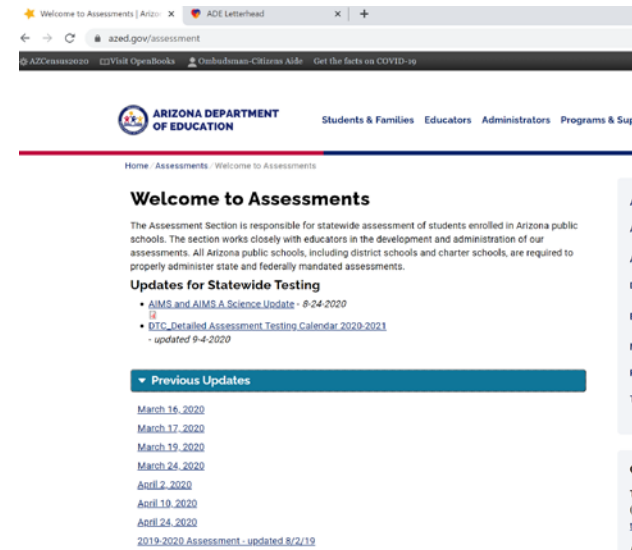
***USDOE Waiver Response letter:***

***<https://www.azed.gov/sites/default/files/media/AZ%20Covid19%20WaiverResponse.pdf>***

# Stop and Pivot (Spring 2020)

## Governor's Executive Order - Closed schools

- ADE was communicating frequently with DTCs
- ADE had to issue stop work orders with our vendors
- Small savings on annual contracts (ADE received credits)
- All work done up to that point ADE keeps and can be used in the future



# U.S. Department of Education – Notification on waiver requests for 2020-2021



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

September 3, 2020

Dear Chief State School Officer:

During the past several months, we have experienced unprecedented challenges across this nation, and I thank you for your efforts to meet the needs of all your students and safely reopen America's schools. I've benefited from talking with each of you as this pandemic has gone on, and please know that your ideas, contributions, and suggestions have all been put to good use. As we look ahead, I want you to know my perspective on the importance of assessing student performance.

Research shows that school closures this past spring disproportionately affected the most vulnerable students, widening disparities in achievement for low-income students, minority students, and students with disabilities.<sup>1</sup> Almost every student experienced some level of disruption. Moving forward, meeting the needs of all students will require tremendous effort. To be successful, we must use data to guide our decision-making.

Several of your colleagues recently inquired about the possibility of waivers to relieve states of the requirement to administer standardized tests during School Year (SY) 2020-2021. You will recall that, within a very short time, waivers were granted to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Bureau of Indian Education this past spring following the declaration of a national emergency. That was the right call, given the limited information available about the virus at the time and the need to stop its spread, as well as the practical realities limiting the administration of assessments. However, it is now our expectation that states will, in the interest of students, administer summative assessments during the 2020-2021 school year, consistent with the requirements of the law and following the guidance of local health officials. As a result, you should not anticipate such waivers being granted again.

As you'll recall, statewide assessments are at the very core of the bipartisan agreement that forged ESSA. They are among the most reliable tools available to help us understand how children are performing in school. The data from assessments can help inform personalized support to children based on their individual needs and provide transparency about their progress. There is broad and consistent support for assessments because there is general agreement among the public that a student's achievement should be measured, that parents deserve to know how their children are performing, and that it should be no secret how a school's performance as a whole compares to other schools.<sup>2</sup>

It's a different, I am reminded of the old saying: necessity is the mother of invention. It's a perfect time for you to rethink assessment in your state, including mastery-based assessments, to better gauge the learning and needs of students.

We will work with you to help ensure every state can meaningfully participate during SY 2020-2021, including providing technical assistance and practices among states. We are open to discussions about what, if any, adjustments to adjust how the results of assessments are used in your state's policies and procedures.

When we assess students, it will have a lasting effect for years to come. Not every state falls behind, but we will be abandoning the important, bipartisan agreement at a critical moment. Opponents of reform, like labor unions, argue that the permanent elimination of testing. If they succeed in eliminating transparency and accountability will soon follow.

But Americans are resourceful people and can accomplish great things during challenging times. Just as doctors, nurses, police officers, grocery store workers have demonstrated their resolve, now is our opportunity to demonstrate our commitment in America's education leaders as we work to safely reopen schools and educate our nation's children.

For American Progress, Collaborative for Student Success, Data Quality Campaign, Foundation for Education, Education Trust, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, UnidosUS, et al., to Secretary of Education DeVos: <https://www.ed.gov/media/202007/Assessment-Collaborative-Letter-to-ED-7-30-20.pdf>  
UnidosUS Parents and Teachers Want More Data and Better Support to Use It Effectively to Help Students: <https://www.unidosus.org/news/national-poll-finds-parents-and-teachers-want-more-data-and-better-supporting-essays>

<sup>1</sup>Dorn, Hancock, Sarakatsannis, Viruleg. "COVID-19 and student learning in the United States: The hurt could last a lifetime". McKinsey & Company

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the Office of School Support and Accountability by e-mail at [OESE-Title-A@ed.gov](mailto:OESE-Title-A@ed.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,

Betsy DeVos

## Importance of assessments

## Effects of school closures

## Lasting effects on children

## **Next Steps for the Assessments Section**

**Joining nationwide discussions (CCSSO, USDOE)**

**Participated in discussions with national experts. The Center for Assessment (national organization) has developed several documents and webinar sessions for States to use as they are thinking through considerations**

**Identification of considerations/contingency plans for Arizona: remote testing, remote proctoring, logistics and test security concerns**

## **Next Steps for the Assessments Section - continued**

**Messaging the importance of Assessment data – the data can shed some light and it can let us know where we are**

**Uses of data - careful considerations for uses of the results**

**Utilizing surveys for educators and possibly students to gain some context around results**



# Characteristics of Types of Assessments

## **Formative/Interim Benchmarks**

- Assessments for and of learning
- Daily, weekly, or at the end of a unit
- More timely data
- Qualitative and Quantitative data
- Can use instructional accommodations and supports

## **Summative Assessments**

- Assessments of learning
- Near or at the end of a school year
- Point in time assessment
- Administered under standard conditions
- Allowable Tools, Features, and Accommodations

## Where we are today

- **Arizona's Board of Education (August 21, 2020) decided to utilize authority allowed in waiver response for AIMS and AIM A Science**
- **Field tests for AzSCI, Science Alternate Assessment, and the new AZELLA Reassessment will have all eligible students participate. These tests will be shortened versions (of typical operational length)**
- **The current AZELLA Reassessment Test will be shortened as well as all embedded field test items have been removed from the 2020-2021 tests**

# What is on the horizon . . .

## Includes:

- Assessments
- Requirements & Options
- Accountability Distinctions

[https://www.azed.gov/sites/default/files/2020/09/Assessments%20Overview%20-%202020%20and%20Beyond\\_final.pdf](https://www.azed.gov/sites/default/files/2020/09/Assessments%20Overview%20-%202020%20and%20Beyond_final.pdf)



### Assessments Overview - 2020 and Beyond

	2020-2021 School Year	
	Required	Optional
AzM2*/^/****	Grades 3-8 and 10 (Cohort 2023) <b>Computer-Based Test Window:</b> April 5 – 30, 2021 (Writing must be completed by April 16) <b>Paper-Based Test Window:</b> April 5 – 14, 2021 (Writing must be scheduled for April 5 or 6)	
AzSCI	Census Field Test for Grades 5, 8, and 11 (Cohort 2022) Aligned to the 2018 Arizona Science Standards <b>Computer-Based Test Window:</b> March 22 – April 30, 2021	
ACT****		Menu of Assessments Fall 2020 – Grade 12 (Cohort 2021) <b>Test Dates:</b> September 22, October 6, October 20, 2020 Spring 2021 – Grade 11 (Cohort 2022) <b>Test Dates:</b> March 2 and April 6, 2021
SAT****		Menu of Assessments Spring 2021 – Grade 11 (Cohort 2022) <b>Test Dates:</b> March 3 and March 24, 2021
AZELLA Placement**/****	KPT & Stages II – V Assessment Aligned to the 2010 ELP Standards <b>Test Window:</b> Two weeks before the start of school through May 14, 2021	
AZELLA Reassessment**/****	Stages I – V Reassessment Aligned to the 2010 ELP Standards <b>Test Window:</b> February 1 – March 19, 2021 Stand-Alone Field Test - New Design aligned to the 2019 ELP Standards and New Grade Configuration K, 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, and 9-12 <b>Test Window:</b> February 1 – April 2, 2021	
MSAA ELA and Mathematics*/^^	Grades 3-8 and 11 <b>Test Window:</b> March 15 – April 30, 2021	
Science Alternate Assessment (SAA)	Census Field Test for Grades 5, 8, and 11 Aligned to the 2018 Arizona Science Standards <b>Test Window:</b> March 15 – April 30, 2021	
NAEP	Selected School Sample Digital Only; Reading and Math Grades 4 and 8 <b>Test Window:</b> January 25 – March 19, 2021	

\*Used in Federal Accountability – Participation (95% Tested) and Proficiency

^Used in Federal Accountability – Growth (K-8)

\*\*Used in Federal Accountability – Proficiency/Growth

\*\*\*Used in State Accountability – Participation/Proficiency/Growth

^^Used in State Accountability – Participation and Proficiency

\*\*\*\*Used in State Accountability – CCRI or other

- The State Board has not made final determinations for the accountability system regarding COVID-19 impacts.
- The 2020-2021 Field Tests (AzSCI Census Field Test and Stand-Alone AZELLA Reassessment Field Test) will be shortened versions of the test. The purpose of field tests is to get information/data on items. No LEA, school, or student level data will be reported for these field tests. The State Board may use Participation (95% Tested) to award bonus points.
- The 2020 Spring AZELLA Reassessment Test will also be shortened due to the removal of the field test items. Students will be administered operational items. This will decrease the overall test administration time.



## Assessments Overview - 2020 and Beyond

	2021-2022 School Year and Beyond (Test Windows To Be Determined)	
	Required	Optional
Arizona Academic Standards Assessment (AASA)*/^/***	Grades 3-8	
ACT*/^^	Grade 11 (Cohort 2023)	
AzSCI****	Grades 5, 8, and 11 (Cohort 2023) Aligned to the 2018 Arizona Science Standards	
Grade 9 Assessment (ACT Aspire)	Grade 9 (Cohort 2025)	
SAT*/^^		Grade 11 (Cohort 2023) SAT may be selected from the Menu of Assessments in lieu of ACT
Grade 9 Assessment (PSAT)		Grade 9 (Cohort 2025) PSAT may be selected from the Menu of Assessments in lieu of ACT Aspire
AZELLA Placement**/***	KPT & Stages II – V Assessment Aligned to the 2010 ELP Standards	
AZELLA Reassessment**/***	New Test Design Aligned to the 2019 ELP Standards and New Grade Configuration K, 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, and 9-12	
MSAA ELA and Mathematics*/^^	Grades 3-8 and 11	
Science Alternate Assessment (SAA)****	Grades 5, 8, and 11 Aligned to the 2018 Arizona Science Standards	
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\*\*Used in Federal Accountability – Proficiency/Growth

\*\*\*Used in State Accountability – Participation /Proficiency/Growth

^^ Used in State Accountability – Participation and Proficiency

\*\*\*\*Used in State Accountability – CCRI or other

NOTE: The asterisk distinctions are subject to change based on State Board determinations regarding the State Accountability System

- The State Board has not made final determinations for the State accountability system regarding COVID-19 impacts.
- The 2020-2021 Field Tests (AzSCI Census Field Test and Stand-Alone AZELLA Reassessment Field Test) will be shortened versions of the test. The purpose of field tests is to get information/data on items. No LEA, school, or student level data will be reported for these field tests. The State Board may use Participation (95% Tested) to award bonus points.
- The 2020 Spring AZELLA Reassessment Test will also be shortened due to the removal of the field test items. Students will be administered operational items. This will decrease the overall test administration time.

# State and Federal Accountability

**State School Letter Grades (A - F) are mandated by State Law**

**There are no State Waivers from Accountability. It requires State Legislative action**

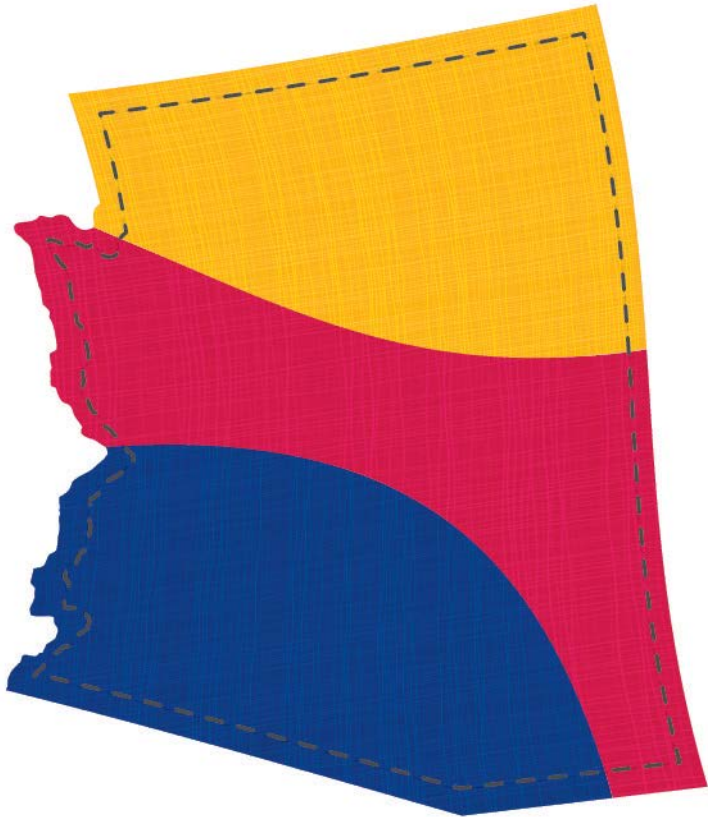
**For the 2019-2020 school year schools will keep their letter grades from 2018-2019. For TSI/CSI there will be no new identification and no exiting from these supports**

**ADE has not requested any Federal Accountability Waivers at this time**

***Accountability Team working with State Board of Education, the ATAC, AOI-TAC, and the AATC looking into the impact of COVID on all of the variables and components of A-F***

Grader Newsletter email: [Achieve@azed.gov](mailto:Achieve@azed.gov)

# Exciting News



Arizona's Academic Standards Assessment

**WE HAVE A WINNER!**  
**Congratulations to**  
**Richard Jensen from E-Institute**  
**Charter Schools.**

**The name of the new 3 - 8 ELA and**  
**Mathematics Statewide Assessment is:**

**Arizona's Academic Standards Assessment**  
**(AASA)**

# Assessment Webinar Series - Posted

All Assessment Webinars  
will be posted on the ADE  
Website- Assessment  
Page:

- PowerPoint Presentation
- Recording

[Home](#) / [Assessments](#) / Welcome to Assessments

## Welcome to Assessments

The Assessment Section is responsible for statewide assessment of students enrolled in Arizona public schools. The section works closely with educators in the development and administration of our assessments. All Arizona public schools, including district schools and charter schools, are required to properly administer state and federally mandated assessments.

### Updates for Statewide Testing

- [AIMS and AIMS A Science Update](#) - 8-24-2020
- [Detailed Assessment Testing Calendar 2020-2021](#) - updated 9-4-2020
- [Assessments Overview - 2020 and Beyond](#) - updated 9-25-20

#### ▶ Previous Updates

#### ▼ Friday Focus Webinars

##### [Friday Focus Flyer](#)

The State of Assessments and Accountability - September 25, 2020

Things You Need to Know as a New District Test Coordinator - October 16, 2020

<https://www.azed.gov/assessment>

# Questions



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# THANK YOU

**For questions, please contact us at:  
Testing@azed.gov**

