

The Grader

Hello to All Arizona Stakeholders

I wanted to thank the teachers, testing coordinators, school administrators, and everyone else who contributes to data we use at Accountability for the hard work and tireless energy they are putting in to make sure our students are getting an equitable education this year.

This month's Grader has information on projects that Accountability is undertaking and updates for the field. It includes additional information on the Official Pupil Withdrawal form. In addition, last year's Self-Reported data has been reopened by the school board. It discusses how the new AzSCI test will be used for A-F State Accountability. Finally, we have provided a webinar that Assessment conducted with a little support from Accountability.

Dr. J. David Selby,

Director of Accountability
Senior Research and Statistical Analyst

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Pupil Withdrawal Form Update and Next Steps

ADE Accountability will be working with our Title I Program in completing audits on the “Official Pupil Withdrawal Forms”. A link to that document, which includes “Guidance and Procedures”, can be found [here](#).

Using the proper withdrawal codes ensures the accurate reporting of graduation, drop-out, and persistency rates. Schools that serve students in grades 6 through 12, may want to review the, “[Graduation, Dropout, and Persistence Rate Technical Manual](#)” to understand how exit code effect these measurements.

During the pandemic, there has been an uptick of students being withdrawn to be home schooled. The guidance to apply these codes is as follows:

W9/S9 — Home Schooled Students: This code is used for students who withdraw to be taught at home. A.R.S. § 15-802(B)(3) allows a student to be taught at home after certain requirements are met. The parent must file an affidavit with the county school superintendent that the child is attending a regularly organized private or home school. Official written documentation is required to apply this code.

Documentation may include a letter of withdrawal or other written confirmation from the parent or guardian, or the affidavit filed with the county school superintendent.

A.R.S. § 15-827. Presentation of Withdrawal Form

- A. A pupil who enters a school shall present to the principal of the school a properly executed withdrawal form if such pupil previously attended another school in this state.
- B. The withdrawal form prescribed by subsection A shall be prepared and distributed by the office of the superintendent of public instruction. The withdrawal form shall in addition to any other data required by the superintendent of public instruction contain space for the reason for withdrawal and the signature of an official of the school from which the pupil has withdrawn.

Audits will not begin until we have gathered additional information from the field regarding practices and field’s understanding of the withdraw form.



Recap and Update from September Board Meeting

2020-2021 Assessment and Accountability

Federal and state laws require Arizona to adopt and implement a statewide assessment to measure student achievement in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. To date, the U.S. Department of Education has indicated it will not issue waivers to statewide assessment requirements as it did in the Spring of 2020.

State law requires ADE, with approval from the Board, to establish an A-F Accountability System and award letter grades by November 1st of each year. Understanding that these requirements are currently still in place, and in light of the impact of COVID-19 on schools during the 2020-2021 school year, the Board took the following steps:

1. Shortened the length of the statewide assessments in the Spring of 2021.
2. Directed ADE to use the same test from 2019 for grades 3-8 to more accurately compare pre- and post-COVID-19 student achievement and help the state better evaluate the stability of the data.
3. Began an analysis, with its technical advisory committees and ADE, of the data used to calculate A-F letter grades. The analysis, modeled after national work, consider each component of the Accountability System in light of COVID-19 in the following areas: completeness, consistency, impact, and practicality. The analysis will guide the Board's position on the viability of the A-F Accountability System in the 2020-2021 school year.

Self-Reported Data

The window for self-reported data (CCRI, On-Track to Graduate, Credits Earned) from the 2019-2020 school year has been reopened to allow schools to submit their 2019-2020 Data.

AzSCI

The AIMS Science bonus point will be replaced with an AzSCI percent tested bonus point. As a reminder, this action is necessary due to the elimination of AIMS Science in the 2020-2021 school year to reduce testing and retire an antiquated assessment.

The highlights from the September 28th Board meeting are located [here](#).

Announcing!

Assessments Overview 2020 and Beyond

The Assessments department, supported by Accountability, hosted a webinar September 25th, 2020 that focused on an Assessment Overview for the 2020-2021 school year. The webinar spotlighted what has transpired over the last year and a plan for moving forward with test administration. You will find the information [here](#) for your review. For further assistance, please contact Testing@azed.gov.

Accountability Timeline for 2020-2021

Date	Activity
October 2020	Reopening of Self-Reported Data Application
November/December 2020	School Report Cards will reflect enrollment, graduation, etc.
December 23, 2020	Self-Reported Data Application Closes @ 5pm