



### The State of Assessments & Accountability – An Overview for the 2020-2021 School Year 9/25 Webinar Chat Questions

1. Are districts required to administer certain benchmarks at this point in the school year? Do we need to report the benchmark assessments to ADE? How will be this benchmark assessment data be used by the state?

*Benchmarks or Interim Assessments at the LEA level were mandated via the Governors' Executive Order (EO) 2020-44. These do not need to be reported to ADE. The EO did not require LEAs report the data, only that LEAs administer the benchmark. Data or completion of the benchmarks may be used by other units within ADE (for example, CSI/TSI). Comprehensive and Targeted Support and Improvement Schools submit a Quarterly Benchmark Analysis and IAP Reflection Tool. Their first submission will be based on the benchmark assessment required by the EO. For additional information, please see the [FAQ – Benchmarks Assessments](#) document.*
2. Do we need to sign up to participate in the AzSCI field test once again? Which grade levels will be tested? Will we get student level data on the AzSCI field test? Will AIMS Science also be administered?

*For the 2020-2021 school year, only the AzSCI Field test will be administered for Science. Neither AIMS nor AIMS A Science will be administered. For more information regarding this decision, please see the following communication: [AIMS and AIMS A Science Update for the 2020-2021 School Year](#). LEAs do not need to volunteer or sign up for the AzSCI Assessment as it will be a Census Field Test, and all eligible students in grades 5, 8, and 11 will participate. No data will be reported to schools or students. A field test will only provide statistical information for the items administered.*
3. If state universities remove ACT/SAT requirements, how will that affect high school testing requirements?

*ACT will continue to be ADE's Statewide High School Assessment and SAT will continue to be offered as an option on the Menu of Assessments. These assessments may be requirements for out of state colleges or universities and scholarships.*
4. Has NAEP always been required? When will Superintendents be notified if they are participating in NAEP?

*NAEP is mandated federally. Only a sample of schools are selected to participate each year. The main NAEP assessment is given in grades 4 and 8 in Reading and Math. Notifications for the 2021 test administration began the week of September 21.*
5. What is MSAA and SAA?

*MSAA is Multi-State Alternate Assessment (ELA and Mathematics) in grades 3-8 and 11 for students with significant cognitive disabilities. SAA is Science Alternate Assessment (Science) in grades 5, 8, and 11 aligned to the new Science Standards for students with significant cognitive disabilities.*

6. Are we still administering AzM2?  
*AzM2 will be administered in spring 2020-2021 in grades 3-8 and Grade 10 for the final year. Beginning in 2021-2022, the Arizona's Academic Standards Assessment (AASA) in ELA and Mathematics will be administered in grades 3-8.*
7. What is the plan if students are not able to be in-person for testing? *ADE is working through possible considerations and contingency plans. No determination has been made at this time.*
8. How will growth scores be calculated?  
*Growth will be calculated in 2020-2021 using Student Growth Percentiles for the Traditional K-8 and Traditional 9-12 A-F models. Models for 2021-2022 have not been developed at this time. Work on the current year will conclude before releasing any modeling or research for upcoming years.*
9. If we signed up for the ACT Fall testing, but now we cannot have our students coming into the building, what do we do? *ACT for the Menu of Assessments offered 3 Fall test windows for the Cohort 2022 (now Seniors) due to these tests being cancelled last spring. If you are not able to utilize one of the Fall test windows, there is not another option for this cohort through the Menu of Assessments.*
10. Will the 1% cap be adjusted to account for students whose families do not want to make them available for testing? *There has not been a final determination on this federal requirement at this time.*
11. How do I view this recorded webinar? If I attended the live event, how do I obtain a professional development certificate?  
*The recorded webinar and the PowerPoint slides are posted on the Assessment section website at <https://www.azed.gov/assessment> under the "Friday Focus Webinars" dropdown. If you attended the live webinar, you can access your certificate through your account in the Event Management System, where you registered for this event.*