



# Spring 2021 AZELLA Stand Alone Field Test Webinar FAQs

December 16, 2020

## Contents

Test Administration Windows..... 1

Eligible Students..... 2

Spring 2021 Reassessment and Spring 2021 SAFT Test Materials..... 3

Spring 2021 AZELLA Stand Alone Field Test (SAFT) Administration..... 3

AZELLA Practice Tests..... 5

Spring 2021 Reassessment and SAFT Training Modules..... 5

EL73 – EL Student Need Report ..... 6

Spring 2021 Reassessment and Spring 2021 SAFT Participation Counts..... 7

EL/SPED Accommodations..... 7

## AZELLA Test Administration Windows

- AZELLA Placement Test 2020-2021: August 17, 2020 – May 14, 2021
- Spring 2021 AZELLA Reassessment Test Window: February 1 – March 19, 2021
- Spring 2021 AZELLA Stand Alone Field Test Window: February 1 – April 2, 2021 - Should the dates of the SAFT window change, the new test window will be communicated by the Arizona Department of Education as well as published in PearsonAccess Next on the Spring 2021 AZELLA Stand Alone Field Test administration home page.

***Are any conversations occurring regarding cancelling AZELLA due to COVID? Most of our students have not been physically in school since spring 2020.***

At this time, there are no plans to postpone or cancel any of the state assessments, including AZELLA. Districts will proceed with administering the AZELLA tests, as the AZELLA is a state and federal mandated test.

***Would it be better to administer the Reassessment test prior to the SAFT?***

ADE has provided districts and schools with the Spring 2021 Reassessment and SAFT test administration windows. The district and schools must create their own plan to administer these tests within the allotted testing window.

***Is the AZELLA field test a one-time test or is this something that will also happen next year?***

The Spring 2021 AZELLA Stand Alone Field Test is a one-time test administration. This SAFT administration is required as part of the process of developing a new AZELLA test aligned to the 2019 English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS). This one-time test administration will commence on Monday, February 1, 2021 and closing on Friday, April 2, 2021.

## ***We are administering the AZELLA Placement test until what date?***

**Eligible** students are required to be administered the AZELLA Placement test within 2 calendar weeks of their school enrollment date for districts receiving Title I and/or Title III federal funds. Districts who do not receive Title I and Title III federal funds have 30 calendar days from the date of the student's school enrollment to administer the AZELLA Placement Test.

When schools are closed or providing distance learning instruction due to COVID-19 restrictions, student requiring the administration of the AZELLA Placement Test must be assessed as soon as practicable in a safe and secure testing environment at the district office or an official school building.

The AZELLA Placement Test window closes on May 14 and is administered concurrently with the Spring 2021 Reassessment and SAFT administrations when the student requires an AZELLA Placement Test.

*Note: Guidelines for the administration of the Kindergarten Placement Test are different.* Kindergarten students who have been enrolled in school anytime between July – December 2020 and require the KPT but are not tested prior to the close of Cycle 7 (Dec. 17) will need to wait and be **administered the Stage I Reassessment Test** and the Stand-Alone Field Test. These Kindergarten students will not be administered the KPT after December 18, 2020.

## ***Eligible Students***

### ***Which students are required to participate in the administration of the Spring 2021 AZELLA Reassessment Test and the Spring 2021 AZELLA Stand Alone Field Test?***

**Spring 2021 Reassessment Test:** Eligible K-12 students with an EL need, as identified on your EL73 Report for EL Groups 1, 2, and 4 (Parent Withdrawn) are required to participate in the Spring 2021 Reassessment Test administration. All Kindergarten students presumed to have an EL need, have not been administered the KPT prior to December 18, 2020, and have been enrolled in EL program services through the temporary entrance procedure for the 2020-2021 School Year are required to be administered the Stage I Reassessment Test.

**Spring 2021 Stand Alone Field Test:** All eligible K-12 students with an EL need as shown on your EL73 Report in EL Groups 1, 2, 4 (PW), and 8 will participate in the Stand-Alone Field Test (SAFT). This includes K-12 students presumed to have an EL need, do not have a current AZELLA test record, and have been enrolled in EL program services through the temporary entrance procedure for the 2020-2021 School Year.

### ***Are the students presumed to have an EL need (based on their Home Language Survey) that have been placed in EL program services through the temporary entrance procedures required to participate in the Spring 2021 Reassessment Test administration if students were unable to be administered the placement test in the Fall?***

For students in Grades 1-12, if the Placement Test has not been administered by the time the AZELLA Reassessment window opens, **for this year only**, administer the Spring Reassessment Test- do not administer a Placement test after the Reassessment Test Window opens to students that have been placed under the temporary entrance procedures. These students **WILL** also participate in the Spring 2021 Stand Alone Field Test. It is our goal to provide as much opportunity as possible for schools to assess their students and obtain data that can be used to make informed decisions.

NOTE: If a student enrolls in your LEA (January – May), these students must be administered a Placement Test **only**. Additionally, if a student scores Overall Proficient on the Placement Test, they would not participate in the SAFT. Only students with an EL Need (including Parent Withdrawn) should be participating in the SAFT.

## ***Spring 2021 Reassessment and Spring 2021 SAFT Test Materials***

### ***When will the Spring 2021 AZELLA Reassessment Test and the Spring 2021 SAFT materials arrive at Districts?***

Per the [AZELLA Testing 2020-2021 Important Dates](#), the Spring 2021 AZELLA Reassessment Test and the Spring 2021 AZELLA Stand Alone Field Test initial shipment of Grades Kindergarten – Grade 3 materials will arrive at districts the week of January 19, 2021 provided DTCs completed the Participation Counts in PAN for both test administrations by December 11, 2020.

Test materials and K-2 / K-3 SAFT Pre-ID Labels will be sent during the same week and may arrive separately. They are not included in the boxes of materials.

SAVE all Pearson boxes as they will be used to return the Scorable and Non-scorable test materials for both the Spring 2021 Reassessment and the Spring 2021 SAFT administrations.

DO NOT MIX the testing materials. You must keep them separated and return them separately. DO NOT MIX testing materials in the return boxes.

### ***Do all students in grades 4-12 need a microphone headset? Is that the same microphone headset that has been required in the past for K-2?***

**Spring 2021 Reassessment Test:** Students in Grades 3-12 require any headset or earbuds for the Listening, Reading, Writing Part 1, and Writing Part 2 test units. They require a unidirectional noise cancelling microphone headset for the Speaking Test unit. These are the same requirements for an AZELLA Placement Test.

**Spring 2021 Stand Alone Field Test:** Students in Grades 2-12 require any headset or earbuds for Unit A and Unit B (B1 and B2). They require a unidirectional noise cancelling microphone headset for Unit C.

## ***Spring 2021 AZELLA Stand Alone Field Test (SAFT) Administration***

The reason why schools must administer the Stand Alone Field Test is because the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) is developing a new AZELLA test aligned to the Revised 2019 English Language Proficiency Standards. Committees of Arizona ELL educators have reviewed hundreds of new AZELLA test items. A field test of these newly developed items is needed to ensure they meet the expectations necessary for inclusion on the new AZELLA test.

### ***Is the Spring 2021 AZELLA Stand Alone Field Test (SAFT) designed to test questions and question types to gather data only with no change in EL status?***

Yes. The SAFT is intended to assess AZELLA items and item types, grade configurations, and modes of administration. ADE is only collecting data for the development of the new AZELLA through the administration of the SAFT. Scores and reports will not be available to districts and schools. The EL status of students will not change by the administration of the SAFT.

### ***Is the entire Spring 2021 AZELLA Stand Alone Field Test (SAFT) on paper?***

No. The modes of administration of the SAFT are as follows:

Grades K-1: paper test with Speaking items completed on the telephone.

Grades 2-3: hybrid test with the majority of the test being administered online with one paper test component.

Grades 4-12: online test administration.

### ***Does the AZELLA (Placement, Reassessment, and SAFT) require an in-person administration?***

*Our school is a choice of remote students (while others are hybrid). Most of our EL students are receiving instruction online only and their parents will not bring them to school AZELLA testing (Placement, Reassessment, and SAFT). How can we proceed with testing and will our district/schools be penalized for this?*

Districts and schools are required to administer the AZELLA (Placement, Reassessment, and the SAFT) tests to all eligible students who require the administration of the AZELLA. Districts and schools are still **accountable** for administering the required Statewide Assessments. Please keep in mind that all AZELLA tests must be administered in-person and in a secure test environment (i.e., at a school campus or district office). Depending on your district's protocols and procedures for COVID-19, you may be able to bring students in for testing by appointment until they are able to attend hybrid or in-person learning.

### ***Would it be better to give the Reassessment test prior to the SAFT?***

ADE has provided districts and schools with the Spring 2021 Reassessment and SAFT test administration windows. The district and schools must create their own plan to administer these tests within the allotted testing window.

- Spring 2021 AZELLA Reassessment Test Window: February 1 – March 19, 2021
- Spring 2021 AZELLA Stand Alone Field Test Window: February 1 – April 2, 2021 - Should the dates of the SAFT window change, the new test window will be communicated by the Arizona Department of Education as well as published in PearsonAccess Next on the Spring 2021 AZELLA Stand Alone Field Test administration home page.

### ***Can students take both tests (Reassessment and SAFT) on the same day due to COVID-19, so they only have to come to school one time?***

The maximum allowable days to complete an AZELLA Test is five consecutive instructional days. ADE recommends a 2- to 3-days Spring Reassessment administration and a 1- to 2-days SAFT administration so that students complete the entire test in a timely manner, and it will also reduce student, teacher, and classroom disruptions.

The administration of the Reassessment Test is separate from the Stand Alone Field Test. Students have 5 consecutive instructional days to complete the Reassessment Test and an **additional** 5 consecutive instructional days to complete the Stand Alone Field Test.

Due to the cognitive demands of EL proficiency testing, significant breaks must be provided between testing units if more than one test unit will be administered during the same day. Once a test unit has started for a student, the student must complete that unit during the same school day.

### ***What are the grade level and grade level bands for the Spring 2021 SAFT?***

- Kindergarten
- Grade 1
- Grades 2-3
- Grades 4-5
- Grades 6-8
- Grades 9-12

### ***How many days can we take for one student on one test?***

The maximum allowable days to complete an AZELLA Test is five consecutive instructional days. ADE recommends a 1- to 2-days Stand Alone Field Test administration so that students complete the entire test in a timely manner, and it will also reduce student, teacher, and classroom disruptions.

The administration of the Reassessment Test is separate from the Stand-Alone Field Test. Students have 5 consecutive instructional days to complete the Reassessment Test and an **additional** 5 consecutive instructional days to complete the Stand Alone Field Test.

Due to the cognitive demands of EL proficiency testing, significant breaks must be provided between testing units if more than one test unit will be administered during the same day. It is not appropriate to provide English language instruction immediately before a testing session or during the breaks between testing sessions.

Once a test unit has started, it must be completed before the student is permitted to take a break, including a lunch break, and before the end of the instructional day.

Test Administrators should not start a new test unit minutes before students go to lunch. Test Administrators should not start a new test unit if there is not adequate time for all students to complete that unit during the same school day. Test Administrators should reference the Test Administration Times in the TAD before starting a new test unit to ensure there is adequate time for a student to complete the unit. Some students may need more than the approximate Test Administration Times.

## **AZELLA Practice Tests**

The AZELLA practice tests (K-12) are available at [www.azed.gov/assessment/azella](http://www.azed.gov/assessment/azella).

### ***When will the practice tests be available?***

The AZELLA practice tests paper and online are currently available. Please visit [www.azed.gov/assessment/azella](http://www.azed.gov/assessment/azella) for information.

### ***Why is Grade 2 tested online when they are not for AzMERIT? Our students do not have computer classes until grade 3. ADE is aware that 2nd graders may not have been exposed to computers skills just yet.***

The AZELLA tests are unlike any other state assessment because it tests students in Kindergarten through Grade 12. One aspect of the Stand Alone Field Test is to measure the modes of administration, including online and paper test units for Grade 2 students. All students, Grades K-12, have Arizona technology standards.

For Grades 2 and 3 students who have not experienced an online AZELLA test, ADE developed a practice test for the Grades 2-3 students in preparation for the SAFT. The Stage II AZELLA Placement Test is currently administered as a paper-pencil test with the Speaking Test administered through the telephone; therefore, ADE wants to ensure that students in Grade 2 are able to experience an online AZELLA Sample Test and have an opportunity to become familiar with TestNav8 and the navigation of the test prior to being administered the SAFT.

## **Spring 2021 Reassessment and SAFT Training Modules**

### ***Does the January 18, 2021 date for required training mean that the training modules should be completed by the 18<sup>th</sup> or you can't start training until after the 18<sup>th</sup> of January?***

ADE is working diligently with Pearson to get the 3 **Reassessment** and 3 **SAFT** training modules posted to the AZELLA Training Management System (ATMS) as early as possible. The tentative schedule for modules to be available is shown below. The training modules must be completed prior to the administration of the Spring 2021 Reassessment Test and the Spring 2021 Stand Alone Field Test.

AZELLA District Test Coordinators PAN accounts for both the Spring 2021 Reassessment and the Spring 2021 Stand Alone Field Test will not be enabled until all required training modules have been verified as completed by ADE. The very earliest a DTC's PAN account will be enabled is January 21, 2021. DTCs must complete the training modules associated with the District Test Coordinator category in the AZELLA Training Management System (ATMS).

### **Annual Training Modules (these should already be completed)**

- Currently available

- All modules must be completed

### **Spring 2021 Reassessment Training Modules**

- Module 1: DTC-STC – anticipated availability on or near January 8, 2021 [DTCs and STCs only]
- Module 2: K-2 - anticipated availability the week of January 11, 2021 (Districts and schools that serve Grades K-2 students) [DTCs, STCs, and Test Administrators]
- Module 3: 3-12 Reassessment **combined** with 4-12 SAFT - anticipated availability the week of January 11, 2021 [DTCs, STCs, and Test Administrators]

### **Spring 2021 SAFT Training Modules**

- Module 4: DTC-STC – January 18, 2021 [DTCs and STCs only]
- Module 5: K-1 – January 18, 2021 (Districts and schools that serve Grades K-1 students) [DTCs, STCs, and Test Administrators]

Module 6: 2-3 – January 18, 2021 (Districts and schools that serve Grades 2 and 3 students) [DTCs, STCs, and Test Administrators]

## **EL73 – EL Student Need Report**

ADE will be extracting student data (as shown on the EL73 – EL Student Need Report) on January 7, 2021 and provide this data to Pearson to pre-register these students for both test administrations. It's imperative that you download your EL73 Reports on January 7, 2021, because it is a live report that changes daily as school enrollments are added, as students transfer schools, as new Placement Tests are reported, and as AZELLA records have been corrected in the AZELLA Corrections application.

As of **January 7, 2021**, your EL73 Report will not include the following students but these students are also required to participate in the Spring Reassessment and SAFT administrations as follows:

- Students who have a Placement Test record in the AZELLA Corrections application (*if the Placement Test record that is in the AZELLA Corrections application has an Overall Proficiency Level (OPL) of less than proficient.*)
- Kindergarten students who have been presumed to have an EL need and were enrolled in EL program services through the temporary entrance procedures and NOT administered the KPT. (*These KG students must be manually registered for both test administrations in PAN after January 21, 2021.*)
- Students, with an EL need and a “current” and “eligible for EL services” AZELLA test record, that transfer into your district as of January 4, 2021 and their school enrollment has not been processed through AzEDS before January 7, 2021.
- Students, with an EL need and a “current” and “eligible for EL services” AZELLA test record, that transfer into your district on and after January 7, 2021 and through the end of each test window.
- Students, with an EL need **and** have a “current” and “eligible for EL services” AZELLA test record but are NOT passing integrity on your EL71 Report.

### **What is the problem with the EL 73 report?**

The EL Group 4 is not displaying correctly. Currently it is showing as EL Group 2 “Enrolled in EL Services”. ADE’s IT unit is currently working on the EL73 Report and it should be fixed by Spring Student Registration 2021 in PAN (uploaded by ADE).

### **Are there instructions on how to extract the 73 report?**

The EL73 – EL Student Need Report is only available from ADEConnect >> Assessment >> AZELLA Reports. AZELLA District Test Coordinators must have an ADEConnect account with the role of AZELLA District Test Coordinator. All others requiring access to this report must have an ADEConnect account with the role of “ELL.” You may reference How to Read the EL73 - EL Student Need Report.

[https://www.azed.gov/sites/default/files/2018/04/How\\_to\\_Read\\_the\\_EL73\\_Report\\_7-02-2019.pdf?id=5ac2ab6b3217e112b8da698a](https://www.azed.gov/sites/default/files/2018/04/How_to_Read_the_EL73_Report_7-02-2019.pdf?id=5ac2ab6b3217e112b8da698a)

### **Is there an EL Group 3 on the EL 73 Report and should this group be included in the SAFT?**

EL Group 3 is not included on the EL73 – EL Student Need Report and should not be included in the SAFT. This distinction was used for Sped Withdrawal and can no longer being used by LEAs.

## ***Spring 2021 Reassessment and Spring 2021 SAFT Participation Counts***

Participation Counts are head counts for Grades Kindergarten through Grade 3 only.

### ***Can you please tell us where we can find the link for the participation counts again?***

November 30 - December 11, 2020: [Spring 2021 Participation Counts for K-3](https://www.azed.gov/sites/default/files/2020/12/Spring%202021%20Participation%20Counts%20for%20K-3.pdf)  
(<https://www.azed.gov/sites/default/files/2020/12/Spring%202021%20Participation%20Counts%20for%20K-3.pdf>)

Also, when the AZELLA District Test Coordinator is signed into PAN and in the Spring 2021 Reassessment and Spring 2021 SAFT administrations, there is a **Quick Guide – Participation Counts** documents listed under “Links” on the right side of the home screen.

### ***Do I add Students that are Parent Withdrawn in the Participation counts for Reassessment and SAFT?***

Yes. Students with an EL need, including Parent Withdrawn (PW) students are required to be administered the Spring 2021 Reassessment Test and the Spring 2021 Stand Alone Field Test; therefore, Grades K-3 PW students must be included in the Participation Counts in PAN.

## ***EL/SPED Accommodations***

All students, regardless of disability, who are eligible for an AZELLA Test are required to be administered the AZELLA 2021 Stand Alone Field Test. This includes students that have been withdrawn from EL program services by their parents. Parent Withdrawn students must participate in this field test administration. Parent permission is not required.

Accommodations for state testing on a student’s IEP or 504 Plan must be included for daily instruction and specific to **AZELLA** testing. There are no provisions, in either state or federal law, that would allow the exemption of AZELLA testing for students who are enrolled in the Special Education program and require an AZELLA test.

Pre-Approved EL/SPED Accommodations for the AZELLA: [AZELLA \(Arizona's English Language Learner Assessment\) Accommodations](https://cms.azed.gov/home/GetDocumentFile?id=5995b45b3217e11164e2b1b9) (<https://cms.azed.gov/home/GetDocumentFile?id=5995b45b3217e11164e2b1b9>)

For students who need additional accommodations not included in the pre-approved AZELLA accommodations, the [AZELLA Additional Accommodations Request Form](https://www.azed.gov/assessment/azella-additional-accommodations-request) must be submitted prior to administering the Spring 2021 Reassessment Test and the Spring 2021 Stand Alone Field Test. Not all accommodations are appropriate for AZELLA. (<https://www.azed.gov/assessment/azella-additional-accommodations-request>)

### ***How do we proceed with our Deaf school? Do I send the list of names to you for students that only take the Reading and Writing?***

You must submit the [AZELLA Additional Accommodations Request Form](https://www.azed.gov/assessment/azella-additional-accommodations-request) for each student. (<https://www.azed.gov/assessment/azella-additional-accommodations-request>)