

# ACCOUNTABILITY & RESEARCH

# THE GRADER

## January 2021 Edition

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# WELCOME TO ACCOUNTABILITY 2021!

## NEWS & FUN FACTS:



- 2020 is over!!
- We are excited to be bringing a new, cleaner, and more consistent format of The Grader to start off the new year.
- You can now click on the topic from the Hot Topics list on the front page, and it will take you directly to the topic you are interested in.
- We are working to build a sign-up page on our website for our newsletter and other important announcements. In the meantime, please feel free to email [Achieve@azed.gov](mailto:Achieve@azed.gov) to be added.



## Alternative School Applications

All schools that would like to be considered for Alternative School Status for Fiscal Year 2022 **MUST** complete and submit an Alternative School Application. Keep in mind that schools must apply every year to be considered for Alternative School status, even if they have been previously approved. **We will be announcing the window and link for submitting Alternative School Applications within the next couple of weeks.** Please keep an eye out for February's Grader as well as updates on our website for more information! If you have questions in the meantime, please contact [Achieve@azed.gov](mailto:Achieve@azed.gov).



## Alternative Schools On-Track to Graduate

We will be announcing the window and submission instructions for Fiscal Year 2021 (2020-2021 school year) Alternative School On-Track to Graduate Initial Submissions **within the next couple of weeks.** You may want to review your spreadsheet from last year in preparation for this year's submission. Please keep an eye out for February's Grader as well as updates on our website for more information! For any questions or concerns please email [Achieve@azed.gov](mailto:Achieve@azed.gov).



## Report Card Rollover

Arizona School Report Cards are now displaying the 2019-2020 available data. Version 3.0 has the following additions, updates, or changes:

### **GENERAL WEBSITE UPDATES**

- Per-Pupil expenditures were added in the School, District and State reports
- Per-Pupil narratives were added at school level
- Trend graphs have been added for reports with 3 years of data
- Search bar was added to the top menu
- Preschool reports were modified for school, district and state report card pages.
- Some data reports cannot be reported or were impacted by the COVID 19 pandemic.
- Narratives were added where impact may have occurred.

Although some of these items have already been deployed, there are some that are brand new such as the trend graphs and new search features.

## AZ School Report Cards and School Characteristics

School Characteristics still is touted as one of the most valuable pieces of information found on our school report cards. In order for this to be up to date, you must submit this information through the SRC Admin found in ADEConnect. If you do not see this option, you must reach out to your entity administrator and request that they assign this role to your account. ADE Staff cannot do that for you. Instructions for completing School Characteristics are available here:

- [Full Guide to Update School Characteristics in SRC Admin found on ADEConnect](#)
- [Abbreviated Guide to Update School Characteristics in SRC Admin found on ADEConnect](#)

School Characteristics can be updated whenever a school chooses to do so. Don't be one of the schools to have those sections be blank when parents are searching.



## Pupil Withdrawal Monitoring

ADE Accountability is working with multiple stakeholders to complete required monitoring on the "Official Notice of Pupil Withdrawal" Form. 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, dropout, 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 codes affect these measurements.

We are currently working with schools, charters, and LEAs in shoring up the monitoring process and will provide more details before broader outreach occurs. The estimated timeline for the monitoring will be:

- January – Pilot of small group of all monitoring materials and process
- February – Selected schools notified for monitoring
- February through April – Monitoring completed
- April through May – Summary analysis, process improvement, and reporting

We will continue to provide updates and information regarding the monitoring and any future code changes through the Grader Newsletter.



## CTED A-F

### **Moving Forward on Career Technical Education District A-F Accountability**

Accountability will be working with the State Board of Education (SBE), the Career and Technical Education (CTE) program at ADE, and the Career Technical Education Districts (CTED) to continue the work on a CTED A-F model. More information will be shared when it becomes available. This is based on ARS15-393.01 A. That information is found below:

#### **15-393.01. Career technical education districts; annual report; performance and accountability**

A. The department of education shall include each career technical education district in the department's annual achievement profiles required by section 15-241. Subject to approval by the state board of education, the department of education shall develop specific criteria applicable to career technical education districts that may not be based solely on the criteria prescribed in the Carl D. Perkins vocational education act, as amended by the Carl D. Perkins vocational and applied technology education act amendments of 1990, as amended by the Carl D. Perkins vocational and technical education act of 1998, and shall include career technical education districts in the letter grade classification system prescribed in section 15-241. The department shall include all of the following performance indicators in the annual achievement profiles and letter grade classification and provide a copy of the information to each career technical education district governing board:

- 1) The graduation rate of all students enrolled in a career and technical education program or course.
- 2) The completion rate for each program offered by the career technical education district.

- 3) Performance on assessments required pursuant to section 15-391, paragraph 4, subdivision (b).
- 4) Postgraduation employment rates, postsecondary enrollment rates and military service rates for students who complete a career and technical education program.



## Accountability Update

### State

The State Board of Education, during their December meeting, made the decision to include in the Board's 2021 Legislative Priorities the following:

- That the state administer the statewide assessment to all students in the spring of 2021, collect achievement data from the 2020-2021 school year and appropriately report achievement data for the 2020-2021 school year; and
- That the state should not award school letter grades for the 2020-2021 school year.

ADE will monitor the legislative process and report any decision made on state accountability by our legislative leaders.

### Federal

A Draft of the State Plan Waiver was posted on the School Improvement site for public comment through December 24th, 2020, and can be accessed here: [Draft of State Plan Waiver](#). ADE will submit to the United States Department of Education a waiver by 2/1/2021. Any information on updates can be found on [School Improvement's Website](#). Once more information is available, it will also be shared through the Grader.



## Income Eligibility 1 & 2 Guidance

Articles over the last two years in the Grader shared information regarding the various measure of poverty and how they work together and when they do not. It is important to remind everyone that Income Eligibility 1 & 2 must be entered in the SIS system for the individual students in order for them to be count in any of the public reported Accountability data sets. A recent review of these two data points compared to the same time last year shows these numbers are significantly down.

Since we are all aware that schools are feeding more students than ever during this pandemic, we wanted to provide a quick reminder to enter this information for individual students in your Student Information System.

A joint memo titled: [Submitting Income Eligibility I and II and FRL for FY21](#) can be accessed by clicking the title link.



## Timeline

<b>January 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>01/28:</b> Per Pupil Narratives closes on SRC Admin (ADEConnect) [Special Note: School Characteristics are able to be changed at any time]</li></ul>
<b>February 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alternative Schools 2020-2021 A F Initial Self-Report On-Track to Graduate opens</li></ul>
<b>March 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alternative School 2021-2022 Applications Open</li></ul>