

FAQ from 1/20/21 Education Leaders Call

1. What is the importance of these (statewide annual) assessments?
 - a. The ESSA reauthorization affirms the importance of statewide assessment as a way to provide annual measures of student progress.
 - b. The requirements for assessment models under ESSA include:
 - i. producing an annual summative determination of grade-level achievement aligned to state standards,
 - ii. measuring a student's academic proficiency based on challenging state academic standards for the grade in which the student is enrolled,
 - iii. allowing for disaggregated assessment data (by gender, racial and ethnic group, disability status, etc.) and individual score reports, and
 - iv. providing understandable information to parents, including those with disabilities or limited English proficiency.
2. What if parents refuse to send in for in-person testing?
 - a. The federal government has not provided any waivers for FY20 assessments. Therefore, all LEAs are federally required to implement assessments ***to the best of their ability as public health conditions permit.***
3. In what way then are these tests considered valid if the context changes with how the students have learned?
 - a. Context will be considered in evaluating and analyzing data from the FY20 annual assessments.
4. For virtual schools, we are facing challenges securing testing locations. Hotels and other locations are not allowing us to bring in a larger number of students. How do test if we do not have testing locations for students?
 - a. ADE would recommend bringing in small numbers of students for assessment, in order to provide the most effective mitigation efforts.
 - b. Costs associated with needing multiple testing locations or testing days can be paid for from ESSER funds.
5. We have students on 10-month distance learning programs using outside of district curriculums; do we have to bring them in for testing as well?
 - a. Yes, all students enrolled should participate in the annual statewide assessment.

6. What is the AZM2 test window?

AzM2 English Language Arts (ELA) and Math	Computer-Based	
	Grade 3: 04/05 – 04/30/21	Grades 4-8, 10: 04/05 – 05/14/21
	Paper-Based	
	Grade 3: 04/05 – 04/14/21	Grades 4-8, 10: 04/05 – 04/21/21

7. If families don't feel safe or the health metrics call for us to continue to be virtual, is there a plan B for assessments?
- Annual assessments must be provided in-person. While some are delivered on a computer, they are not web-based. Therefore, there are no options for them to be delivered at home or virtually. This is not unique to Arizona's assessments and is the same with SAT, ACT, and the GED.
8. Is an assessment/ instructional model to be aligned with the health guidance?
- Public health guidance should inform an LEAs instructional and assessment model/plan.
9. Any ideas on the turnaround for ESSER application approval?
- ADE is poised for a quick turn-around on the ESSER 2 applications, as we have the system in place from ESSER 1.
10. Do we know allocation formulation for non title schools and thank for all the support of ADE and Superintendent Hoffman's office.
- We have not made a decision on ESSER II allocation for non-Title I, but aiming to have more info for the field by next week.