



Accountability: What Now? 2/5/21 Webinar Chat Questions

Accountability Questions

1. Why does the MSAA count against a school letter grade? *The alternative assessment meets the standards and needs of our alternative students that take the assessment. ESSA requires that these assessments are included and reported in all assessment results and used in accountability. In most cases these assessments improve the outcomes for a school's letter grade.*
2. Why are we still tied for TSI to several year-old data? It no longer applies yet we still have to create plans for improvement. *TSI Schools are identified every three years. Schools can exit after two years if they no longer have a subgroup in the bottom 5%. No one exited in 2020 because there was no statewide assessment.*
3. Are the penalties for not meeting the 95% target for testing students for AzSCI and AzM2 unknown at this point? *The penalty for not testing 95% is still in effect for both state and federal accountability. The State Board of Education will revisit what impact 95% will have on reporting of components after the participation rate is known. The submitted federal waiver will delay re-identification if 95% testing is not achieved for another year.*
4. To clarify, the Senate bill's amendment rejected the suspension of A-F for the current year... In other words, it is possible schools will receive a label based on Spring 2021 AzM2 and other accountability measures? *The current bills ask for a two-year suspension of letter grades. There is an amendment to the house bill (clarification on house, not senate) that would allow for one-year suspension. It will become clear as decisions are made if and when the bills pass whether it will be a one or two-year suspension.*
5. Just to clarify, the state approved a pause on letter grades for this year, but not for next year? *The bills are still in progress and the final decision not known.*
6. Schools in D status have expressed how remaining in this status is very harmful to the morale of the school and community. Has there been discussion about this topic? *Letter grades are required by state statute. The legislature would need to take action to make any changes in the letter grade process.*
7. Is there anticipation that the definition of Full Academic Year (FAY) student will be altered? *The technical advisory committees have been discussing the impact of the pandemic on the FAY calculation. If the state bills or federal waiver are not passed or granted, the definition of FAY will be addressed.*

8. Will there be SGP's provided this year like in the past? *In the absence of state or federal accountability, there is still a plan to provide SGPs if assessments are administered and enough results allow for their calculations.*
9. Can you provide clarification for CCRI points regarding the 95% requirement for testing this year? *95% does not affect the CCRI points. Previous AzMERIT 11th Grade EOC tests counted in CCRI, but those assessments will not be administered this year.*
10. Do students on IEPs in general education that do not qualify for MSAA count the same as all other students? *Yes, all students' assessment count if the student has a valid test and meet the FAY definition. Test accommodations should be provided in the appropriate described manner.*
11. What is the title of the role needed in ADE Connect in order to get more information on your LEA and what information are you referring to? *A person would need to have the "Accountability" role in ADEConnect to see the details of A-F scores.*
12. You mentioned that even in the absence of letter grades, schools will still have to collect ALL of the data. Are the due dates and mechanisms for ADE collection of that data going to remain the same if letter grades are paused? *All timelines will be adjusted based on the changes made to assessment schedules and availability of data as they have been adjusted in the past.*

Assessment Questions

13. What if you have student families refusing to bring students in person? *We are asking that LEAs document their communications with families including how they have communicated to families their plan for testing safely. We have also provided Creative Ideas for Testing and Talking points specific to several testing programs. These were distributed to District Test Coordinators. We do not need the LEA to submit their documentation.*
14. Can you verify the grades for the MSAA and SAA? *MSAA is our ELA and Mathematics assessment in Grades 3-8 and 11 and for Science it is Grades 5, 8 and 11.*
15. Can schools that still use paper-based testing have an extended window of time to test? *Yes, See the Assessment Overview 2020 and Beyond document for the paper test window. While it is not extended the same as the Computer-Based Test Window, we were able to provide some extension to that test window as well. The only test window that was not able to be extended is for Grade 3 as we have a state statute that requires results be available by May 15.*
16. Is there any additional guidance for testing homebound students? *We have always allowed Test Administrators to go to the home to administer the tests to homebound students. If the families cannot have outside people in their home we ask that you document this.*

17. When testing distance learners, do they need to follow the same schedule as in-person learners or can we offer a variety of opportunities for all distance learners within our testing windows? *ADE is offering flexibility in this area as well. You can keep these groups separated and test on different days.*
18. Is there a time frame for the Alt – AZELLA? *Arizona has joined a collaborative of states that is developing new Alternate English Language Proficiency Assessment for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. We are currently working on building a Community of Practice, recruiting educators for item tryouts and the pilot test. The new test will be operational in 2023.*

Webinar Logistics Questions

19. 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.*
20. Will there be additional webinars? *This webinar was the final one scheduled in the Friday Focus webinar series for this school year. However, if we determine we need to schedule an additional webinar this school year, we will communicate that information to District Test Coordinators.*
21. Where can I find recordings from the past Friday Focus webinars? *Recordings, PowerPoint presentations, and FAQ documents for past Friday Focus webinar sessions are posted on our website: <https://www.azed.gov/assessment>, under the "Friday Focus Webinars" dropdown.*