

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENT PERIOD
September 22, 2021

As part of the standards adoption processes, the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) is seeking public comment on the adoption of the Alternate English Language Proficiency Standards for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. The U.S. Department of Education requires state educational agencies, when adopting standards, to solicit and respond to public comment on the request and provide evidence of the available comment period. This 30-day public comment period will be open from September 22, 2021 through October 22, 2021.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: Any individual or organization may submit written comments.

Written comments shall be accepted through October 22, 2021.

Arizona is in the process of adopting the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) Alternate English Language Proficiency Standards:

- These standards will be utilized and aligned to the development of a new Alternate English Language Proficiency Assessment for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.
- These standards were developed with multiple state and educator input, including multiple state leaders from the Assessment and OELAS offices.
- These standards were specifically developed to support the language development of English Learners (ELs) with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

ADE is part of the Collaborative for the Alternate Assessment of English Language Proficiency (CAAELP) consortia, committed to developing an assessment to embrace the language capabilities and full potential of ELs with the most significant cognitive disabilities — through a fair and accurate alternate assessment. This new assessment will be aligned to the CCSSO Alternate English Language Proficiency Standards K-12.

These alternate standards will address the unique and complex language needs of these students, which are comprised of less than 1,500 students across our State.

You may submit your comments electronically September 22, 2021 through October 22, 2021, using the following link: <https://www.azed.gov/assessment/public-comment-alternate-english-language-proficiency-standards>, or directly to Audra Ahumada, Deputy Associate Superintendent of Assessment, Arizona Department of Education, 1535 West Jefferson St. Bin #6, Phoenix, AZ 85007. Mrs. Ahumada may be reached by telephone at 602-542-5450, by fax at 602-542-5467, or through email at Audra.Ahumada@azed.gov.