



## The State of Assessments & Accountability – An Overview for the 2021-2022 School Year 8/20/21 Webinar Chat Questions

### General Questions

- 1. Will all statewide testing be in person this year or will remote opportunities be available?**

*Arizona's statewide assessments must be administered in person.*

- 2. Will ADE provide guidance regarding tracking performance/growth now that different tests are being administered and cohorts have changed?**

*ADE Accountability will be working closely with Assessment, School Support and Improvement, and other stakeholders through the transition to a new assessment and how that affects growth or other accountability components. Student Growth Percentiles (SGPs) are a robust measure of growth that does allow for the transition from one assessment to another, while still providing valid and reliable results. More information will be provided following the conclusion of the 2020-2021 accountability season and the COVID Academic Impact reporting. Please watch The Grader for all information on any of these subjects.*

- 3. Does ADE know when the state will be uploading students in PearsonAccess<sup>next</sup>?**

*The student upload dates will vary depending on the assessment. More details regarding tasks to be completed in PAN for each assessment, including the student upload dates, will be sent to District Test Coordinators when they are finalized.*

### Achievement Tests – AASA, ACT Aspire, ACT, AzSCI

#### General AASA Questions

- 1. Are AASA sample tests available?**

*AASA Sample Tests will go live in September 2021. More information will be sent to Achievement District Test Coordinators and will be posted on our website (<https://www.azed.gov/assessment/aasa>) when the Sample Tests are available.*

- 2. Will Writing be factored into the score for ELA this year?**

*Yes, writing is part of the ELA Blueprint and has been since 2015.*

- 3. Are the writing rubrics and writing guides for AzM2 on the ADE website still valid for AASA?**

*Yes, the writing rubrics are still valid and will remain unchanged. LEAs can continue to use these resources. ADE is in the process of rebranding resources for AASA.*

**4. Are the item specifications for AASA Math and ELA tests the same as the item specifications from previous years or will those be changing?**

*Yes, there are no changes to blueprints or items specifications for grades 3-8.*

**5. Will AASA performance levels need new benchmarking?**

*For the 2021-2022 Test Administration, there will not need to be any additional standard settings to determine new performance levels as the blueprint and test design is remaining the same from previous years.*

**6. When can districts request paper vs. online testing?**

*All Achievement testing is, by default, administered to students by computer/online. The application to request paper administration for school site(s) will be open to District Test Coordinators in ADEConnect September 20 – October 15, 2021.*

**7. Will AASA reports be similar to the previous AzM2 reports?**

*Yes, many of the features in the AzM2 reports will also be on AASA reports. Additionally, for AASA, there will be a parent portal for parents to access their student's reports electronically.*

**8. What platform will be used for AASA?**

*PearsonAccess<sup>next</sup> (PAN) is the website to access the test administration tasks for AASA. The online AASA test will be administered in TestNav.*

**9. Will ADE provide training for the PAN platform this year?**

*Yes, ADE is working with our vendor to create additional trainings and resources to support all of the Statewide Assessments. We are developing training and looking to develop a quick checklist for the day of testing.*

**10. Will districts and charters be able to add students in PAN instantly or will the "Work Request" process be utilized, as for AzSCI?**

*AASA will utilize the "Work Request" process in PAN as has been used for AzSCI. The reason for the delay is that the releasing LEA must determine if the test has already been administered. ADE will continue to address this issue with the vendor.*

**11. What are the technical requirements for PAN, both for AASA and AzSCI?**

*The technical requirements can be found on this Pearson website: [TestNav System Requirements](#)*

**AASA Writing Stand Alone Field Test (SAFT)**

**12. What grade levels will participate in the Writing SAFT?**

*The AASA Writing SAFT will be administered to all students in Grades 3-8.*

**13. When is the test window for the Writing SAFT?**

*The AASA Writing SAFT window is January 24 – February 18, 2022.*

**14. Why is there a need for the Writing SAFT?**

*At the end of the contract with Cambium for AzM2 (AzMERIT), ADE did not own the writing items. We are focused on developing Arizona-specific items for our item bank.*

**15. Will a rubric be provided for the Writing SAFT?**

*The writing rubrics from AzM2 are still valid and unchanged. LEAs can continue to use these resources, including for the Writing SAFT. ADE is in the process of rebranding resources for AASA.*

**16. Is the Writing SAFT online only? Will there be a paper-based option?**

*Districts and charters will be set up for online testing, by default. Districts or charters who request paper-based testing for AASA will automatically be signed up for paper-based testing for the Writing SAFT as well, as this is part of AASA. The application to request paper administration for school site(s) will be open to District Test Coordinators in ADEConnect September 20 – October 15, 2021.*

**17. Will schools and students receive test results from the Writing SAFT?**

*No, schools and students do not receive test results from any Arizona field tests, including the Writing SAFT.*

**18. Will students take Writing on both the AASA and the Writing SAFT?**

*Yes, students in grades 3-8 will take Writing on both the AASA and the Writing SAFT.*

**AASA Oral Reading Fluency (ORF) – Grade 3**

**19. Please provide an overview of the Grade 3 Oral Reading Fluency (ORF) test section that will be added to AASA in Spring 2022.**

*The ORF section will be administered similarly to the AZELLA speaking section. There will be three passages, and the student will read the passage for a specified time (1-2 minutes).*

**20. Is the Oral Reading Fluency for grade 3 only?**

*Yes, only grade 3 students will participate in the ORF test section.*

**21. Who will score the Oral Reading Fluency section?**

*The Oral Reading Fluency test section, and all AASA test sections, will be scored by Pearson, our vendor for AASA.*

**22. Will paper-based schools administer the Oral Reading Fluency section on the telephone or on a computer?**

*Paper-based testing schools will have the option of administering the Oral Reading Fluency test section either online or on a telephone. Computer-based testing schools must administer the Oral Reading Fluency test section online.*

**23. Please share the headphone and microphone requirements for the Oral Reading Fluency.**

*The headphone and microphone requirements can be found in this document: [Pearson Headphone and Microphone Requirements](#)*

## **ACT and ACT Aspire**

**24. Will students take the Science portion of the ACT test in addition to AzSCI?**

*Yes, students in Cohort 2023 (generally grade 11) will take the Science portion of the ACT as well as the AzSCI. The AzSCI assessment is aligned to our State's Science Standards.*

**25. Will ACT and ACT Aspire include a writing component?**

*Yes, both the ACT and the ACT Aspire will include an essay as part of the assessment. The ACT Aspire assessment also includes language and editing tasks and open-ended questions.*

**26. What content areas are included in ACT and ACT Aspire testing?**

*The content areas for both assessments include English, Math, Reading, Science, and Writing.*

**27. Do all ACT content areas need to be taken in one session? What about Aspire?**

*All ACT content areas of the test are timed and are administered in one day. ACT Aspire test content areas are also timed but may be administered on different days or on the same day.*

**28. Can one session of ACT be administered in the morning and another session in the afternoon?**

*ACT recommends that testing begin no later than 9:00am in all rooms to ensure adequate testing time. However, ACT's Late Start Policy allows for the standard time test administration to begin before 10:30am with the submission of an Irregularity Report.*

**29. How do districts and charters schedule for ACT and ACT Aspire testing?**

*The ACT and ACT Aspire test windows are included in the [Assessments Overview](#) document. ACT Aspire must be administered within the posted test window. For ACT, districts and charters will be asked to select one of the test windows in which to complete all ACT testing. This selection will be made in ACT's PearsonAccess<sup>next</sup> platform in November 2021. More information will be provided soon regarding the ACT test window selection.*

**30. Will ADE provide crosswalk resources to show the alignment of AZ Math and ELA standards to ACT and ACT Aspire?**

*ADE will be working with our vendors to produce crosswalks aligned to the 2016 ELA and Mathematics Standards.*

**31. Is ACT a timed test and if so, will extended time be an accommodation?**

*Yes, the ACT test is a timed test. Extended time may be requested as an accommodation. More information will be provided in an ACT-hosted webinar regarding accommodations this fall.*

**32. Will there be guidance for working with ACT on accommodations requests?**

*Yes, ACT will be hosting a webinar this fall regarding ACT accommodations requests. More information will be sent to Achievement District Test Coordinators when the date and time of the webinar is finalized.*

**33. If students have taken the ACT personally in the fall/winter of their junior year, will they need to take it again with their school during the state ACT test window?**

*Yes, students are required to participate in the State-specific ACT test windows shown below.*

Districts/charters will need to select one of the test windows below and complete all ACT testing within that window.

*Test Window 1:*

**Standard Paper Testing:** March 1, 2022

**Accommodations Paper Testing:** March 1-4 & 7-11, 2022

**Online Testing (Standard and Accommodations):**

March 1-3 & March 8-10, 2022

*Test Window 2:*

**Standard Paper Testing:** April 5, 2022

**Accommodations Paper Testing:** April 5-8 & 11-15, 2022

**Online Testing (Standard and Accommodations):**

April 5-7 & April 12-14, 2022

**34. When and how do districts/charters select a test window for ACT?**

*Test window selection for ACT will take place this fall in ACT's PearsonAccess<sup>next</sup> platform.*

*The window for making this selection will be sent to Achievement District Test Coordinators when it is finalized.*

**35. Can students use their scores from taking the ACT toward their college applications?**

*Yes, students may select up to four colleges to send their score reports to for free through their MyACT accounts. More information will be provided about MyACT in the ACT-hosted webinar to be held this fall.*

**36. Will Arizona students still be provided waivers for ACT costs to take the ACT on their own?**

*A district would need to reach out the ACT District Testing Representative. Please contact ADE if you would like contact information.*

**37. What kind of training will be required to administer the ACT?**

*ACT will host three webinars for Arizona test coordinators, two in the fall and one in the spring, which will be required for Achievement District Test Coordinators this year. The webinars may be attended live, or the recorded versions may be viewed. Dates and times of the webinars will be sent to Achievement District Test Coordinators once they are finalized.*

**38. Will there be Braille, Large Print, and Special Paper Version (SPV) tests available for ACT Aspire? Will this go through ACT's Test Accessibility and Accommodations (TAA) system?**

*There will be SPV tests available for ACT Aspire, including Braille, Large Print, and regular print paper tests. SPV requests for ACT Aspire will not go through ACT's TAA system and instead, will be submitted to ADE for approval.*

## **AZELLA**

**1. What grade levels will participate in the AZELLA SAFT? Does it include Kindergarten?**

*All English learners currently enrolled in Grades 1 – 12 will participate in the Fall 2021 AZELLA Stand Alone Field Test. Kindergarten will not participate in the AZELLA SAFT.*

**2. When will AZELLA SAFT training modules be posted?**

*The AZELLA SAFT Modules will be available September 13, 2021.*

**3. Is there additional training required for AZELLA SAFT in addition to modules?**

*Yes. Specific training SAFT modules will be available in the Arizona Training Management System (ATMS). There is a total of four SAFT modules that must be completed as applicable by AZELLA role and grades that each district serves:*

- a. *DTC -STC*
- b. *Grade 1, 2,*
- c. *Grade 3, 4, and*
- d. *Online Grades 5-12.*

## **Alternate Assessments**

**1. Will the Alternate Assessments Test Coordinator Handbook be updated for this school year?**

*Yes, the [2021-2022 Test Coordinator Handbook](#) is currently posted.*

**2. Is there anything new this year for MSAA?**

*There are no changes to the MSAA Test Design or test platform.*

**3. What grade levels will take MSAA Science?**

*Students in grades 5, 8 and 11 will take MSAA Science.*

## **Webinar Information**

**1. 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 2021-2022" 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.*