2022 A-F Letter Grade Accountability System: Traditional Schools Business Rules

K-8 Model

A I Z O N a Department of Education

Last Updated December 15, 2021

Modified and Annotated Based on the Impact of COVID-19

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Introduction

These business rules detail Arizona's 2022 A-F Traditional K-8 Schools Letter Grade Accountability System for educators, parents, and other stakeholders. The Arizona Department of Education's (ADE) mission is equity for all students to achieve their full potential. As a state, we are also committed to holding schools accountable to this goal using an equitable accountability model that differentiates the performance of schools.

Using the A-F Letter Grade Accountability System, Arizona makes annual accountability determinations for K-8 schools based on student academic outcomes, growth, and acceleration/readiness. The accountability system outlined here uses several metrics to measure student learning and growth in Arizona traditional K-8 public schools.

Legislation Considerations: The FY 2022 A-F Business rules will remain in draft form until the close of the 2022 legislative session, as there are legislative items being considered by the Arizona 2022 Legislators that may affect the 2022 A-F Accountability models. Please note that if there is impact to the models, they will be noted and communicated clearly to the field.

Business Rules

Once the Arizona State Board of Education approves the A-F Letter Grade Models for a given fiscal year, business rules that reflect the approved model are created and shared with stakeholders on the Accountability & Research website (http://www.azed.gov/accountability-research/resources/). Following the calculation of A-F Letter Grades, corresponding release by the State Board of Education, and conclusion of the appeals process, the ADE Accountability team adds descriptive statistics and graphs at which point the business rules are finalized.

Prior to the finalization of the business rules, some changes may occur including small edits to the text (e.g., punctuation, spelling, formatting, etc.), clarifications to the description of components and the addition of details (i.e., statewide averages). A footer appears on each page that contains the date on which the business rules were most recently updated. In addition, the last page includes a date and brief description of each change that occurs.

The Accountability & Research team will continue to post the most updated document as quickly as possible for stakeholders. To ensure you are using the most up to date version, you should bookmark the applicable link from our website as opposed to saving or printing a copy.

Overview of the A-F Letter Grade Accountability System

As outlined by A.R.S. §15-241, the State Board of Education (SBE) determined the criteria for each school classification. Details regarding A-F and the process can be found at https://azsbe.az.gov/f-school-letter-grades. The following outlines the traditional school K-8 model that was approved on December 13, 2021

The A-F Letter Grade accountability system includes the following:

- 1. Percentage of proficient students on the AASA grade level assessment
- 2. Longitudinal indicators of relative student gain and growth
- 3. EL language proficiency and growth
- 4. Indicators to measure students' ability to accelerate beyond elementary school

Per A.R.S. §15-241 (b), "Each school, charter holder and school district shall submit to the department any data that is required and requested and that is necessary to compile the achievement profile. A school or local education agency that fails to submit the information that is necessary is not eligible to receive monies from the classroom site improvement fund established by section 15-977". The complete A.R.S. §15-241 is available here: https://www.azleg.gov/ars/15/00241.htm.

Data Inclusion Criteria

AASA, MSAA, AzSCI, and AZELLA data were used in the letter grade calculation after validation against the statewide Arizona Education Data Standards (AzEDS). Using the student's AzEDS identification as the unique identifier, integrity checks consider valid student enrollment and accurate student identification on test date relevant to the grade level and subject tested.

The following criteria outline specific details and descriptions of student data included in the calculation of the A-F Letter Grades for schools.

1-Year FAY (Full Academic Year) — Students were included in the proficiency, growth, and acceleration/readiness metrics of the A-F Letter Grade models if they were enrolled within the first ten school days of the school's calendar year and continuously enrolled until the first week day in May (May 2, 2022). Students with breaks in enrollment fewer than 10 calendar days in the same school are still considered FAY.

<u>2-year FAY</u> – Students who are FAY two consecutive years in a row (Fiscal Year 2021, Fiscal Year 2022) at the same school. 2-year FAY students are not included in 1-year FAY stability calculations.

<u>3-year FAY</u> – Students who are FAY three consecutive years in a row (Fiscal Year 2020, Fiscal Year 2021, Fiscal Year 2022) at the same school. 3-year FAY students are not included in 2-year FAY and 1-year FAY stability calculations.

<u>AZELLA FAY</u> – Students were included in the EL calculations if they were enrolled within the first ten school days of the school's calendar year and continuously enrolled until the last day of the

state testing window for AZELLA. Students with breaks in enrollment fewer than 10 calendar days in the same school are still considered AZELLA FAY.

<u>AOI FAY</u> — Students that attend AOIs are FAY students if they log enough minutes at the AOI. The required minutes varies depending on grade level: Students in Kindergarten must log 16,020 minutes at an AOI school to be considered FAY, students in grades 1-3 must log 32,040 minutes to be considered FAY, students in grades 4-6 must log 40,050 minutes to be considered FAY, and students in grades 7-8 must log 40,050 minutes to be considered FAY¹.

<u>Chronically Absent</u> – A student is chronically absent if that student has absences (excused and unexcused) greater than 10% of a school's calendar year (e.g., 18 days for a school meeting 5 days per week). Schools can validate how many absences a student has using the STUD10 report in the AzEDS portal on ADEConnect. Additional information on what defines an absence can be found here: https://www.azleg.gov/viewdocument/?docName=https://www.azleg.gov/ars/15/00901.htm. Students who are enrolled in Kindergarten or are flagged as chronically ill in AzEDS are removed from the Chronic Absenteeism calculation.

<u>AOI Chronically Absent</u> – AOIs take attendance by logging minutes of activity. For each AOI student a number of require instructional minutes is calculated based of AZ 15-808 (F), and the proportion of the school year each students attends an AOI school. Students that are missing more than 10% of the required instructional minutes are considered chronically absent.

Current Year – refers to Fiscal Year 2022

<u>EL_FEP</u> – Any student identified with an EL need for Fiscal Year 2022 plus any student identified as Fluent English Proficient 1, 2, 3, or 4 years ago.

English Learner (EL) - Any student identified with an EL need

- with a less than proficient score on AZELLA in the current or prior fiscal year
- students that may have been identified during the pandemic based on the Home Language Survey

<u>Ethnicity</u> – Student data submitted via AzEDS in the ethnicity fields (i.e., White, African American, Hispanic, Native American/Alaskan Indian, Asian, or Pacific Islander) is used for the subgroup calculations.

<u>Fluent English Proficient</u> – Any student identified with an EL need in a prior fiscal year who has reclassified as Proficient on the AZELLA 1, 2, 3, or 4 years ago.

Homeless – Student data submitted via AzEDS in the Homeless field.

Income Eligibility 1 & 2 — Student data submitted via AzEDS in the IncomeEligibility1 and IncomeEligibility2 fields are used to define an Income Eligibility 1 & 2 student. A student is defined as Income Elibility 1 & 2 if the school submits a 1/yes for either the IncomeEligibility1 or

IncomeEligibility2 field.

<u>New School</u> – A school opened in the 2021-2022 school year with a new entity ID. These schools will not receive an A-F letter score grade their first year in operation.

<u>N-Size</u> – The minimum number of students required for the indicator to be calculated and the school eligible to earn the points. The N-Size for all indicators is 10 students.

Parent in Military – Student data submitted via AzEDS in the Parent in Military field.

<u>Prior Year</u> – Refers to Fiscal Year 2021

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<u>Recently Arrived English Learner (RAEL)</u> – A RAEL in the current year is a student who meets the following data criteria: 1) is new to Arizona schools as determined by having his/her first enrollment ever in an Arizona school and 2) is not proficient in English as determined by a less than proficient result on the AZELLA.

<u>Special Education Student</u> – Any student receiving special education services on October 1, 2021 as defined by Federal law. To confirm whether a student meets this criterion, schools can check their SPED07 report in the ESS Census Application. Information regarding the ESS Census process can be found here: http://www.azed.gov/specialeducation/data-management/federal-sped-census/

The table below describes the grade-level and FAY requirements for each indicator of the A-F Letter Grade Accountability System.

Indicator	Component		Grades
Proficiency	AASA ELA and Math	✓	3-8
. Tonciency	MSAA ELA and Math	✓	3-8
Growth	Growth on AASA ELA and Math	✓	4-8
EL	EL Proficiency and Growth	✓	K-8
Acceleration/Readiness	Grade 8 Mathematics Performance	✓	8
	Grade 3 ELA	✓	3
	Chronic Absenteeism		1-8
	Subgroup Improvement	✓	3-8
	Special Education Inclusion	✓	K-8
Bonus	AzSCI and MSAA Science Test	√	5 and 8
	Special Education Enrollment	√	K-8

Regardless of a student's special education status, the accountability system uses all verified AASA data from students enrolled the full academic year. For students who take the MSAA assessment Fiscal Year 2022 K-8 Schools A-F Business Rules

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and are enrolled the full academic year, these data are used in the Proficiency component but not in the calculation of student growth percentiles or student growth targets (Growth).

Students with a performance level reported from the AASA English Language Arts and Mathematics assessments, MSAA and AzSCI, are utilized in certain calculations (detailed below). The department does not include AASA, MSAA, and AzSCI records for students where no answer items are selected and no scale score or performance level is assigned. The following table indicates the only valid performance levels on AASA or MSAA at all grade levels and for all subjects.

AASA/MSAA	AzSCI Achievement Levels	MSAA Science Test
Achievement Levels		Achievement Levels
Minimally Proficient (1)	Pending	Pending
Partially Proficient (2)		
Proficient (3)		
Highly Proficient (4)		

A-F Static File

The A-F static file merges assessment data with enrollment data from AzEDS to serve as the base for the majority of A-F Letter Grade calculations and to help schools understand performance based on various accountability-related business rules (i.e. FAY). Students are included in a school's static file if they meet any of the below criteria:

- Enrolled on the first day of the Spring AzSCI Window (March 21st, 2022)
- Enrolled on the first day of the Spring AASA State Testing Window (April 4th, 2022)

Data in the Growth Model

Valid student assessment results must meet three criteria for inclusion in the growth model:

- 1. Student enrollment generates ADM in any Arizona public school (i.e., tuition payer code equal to 1 or FTE greater than 0).
- 2. Student has a test record from the 2021-2022 school-year.
- 3. Student also has a test record from the 2020-2021 school-year in the same subject.

Only test records which can be matched to a valid student enrollment are included in the accountability system. Test records with unverifiable information such as missing AzEDS ID numbers are excluded. To build the growth model, the ADE includes test records from students considered non-FAY at the time of testing. The growth model restricts the academic peer groups as much as possible to only students who are receiving a public education from an Arizona school that teaches grade level standards.

Timeline & Appeals

Information will be added once determined by the Arizona State Board of Education.

Cut Scores

- K-8 Letter Grade model is used for schools that serve grades Kindergarten through 8 (or any configuration within that such as K-7, 1-6, 6-8, etc.). K-8 schools eligible for 80 or more of the 100 total points available will receive a letter grade.
- Due to the fact that schools can earn a different amount of points, cut scores for letter grades for all models were established on percentages. Percentage Earned = Total Points Earned (excluding bonus points) / Total Points Eligible. The State Board will review Cut Scores in Fall 2022.

Α	В	С	D	F
<mark>TBD</mark>	<mark>TBD</mark>	<mark>TBD</mark>	<mark>TBD</mark>	<mark>TBD</mark>

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-241.02(D), schools that receive three consecutive D's "shall be assigned a letter grade of F unless an alternate letter grade is assigned after an appeal...". Schools receiving a third "D" letter grade were assigned a "D" in the initial release of A-F Letter Grades. If the school did not file an appeal of their grade, it was be changed to an F following the close of the A-F Letter Grade Appeal window.

2022 K-8 A-F Traditional School Letter Grade Models

The K-8 A-F Letter Grade model aims to fairly and accurately depict a school's accountability determination in a manner which complies with state statute, State Board Rule, as well as other accountability requirements.

Schools that serve grades K-8 or any combination within (e.g., K-8, K-7, 1-5, 6-8, K-5, etc.) will be evaluated on the K-8 model. Non-Typical school configurations, those that serve grades K-12, 1-12, 2-12, 6-12, etc., are graded on both the K-8 and 9-12 models. Approved Alternative schools will be graded on the Alternative School Model. Small schools with fewer than 10 FAY students or schools not eligible for enough of the total 100 points (80 for K-8) will be Not Rated in Fiscal Year 2022.

N-Size

The K-8 traditional school model requires schools to have 10 FAY students in each indicator to be eligible to earn the points. Exceptions to this rule are:

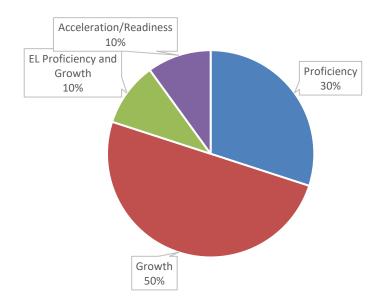
- Acceleration/Readiness Chronic Absenteeism requires an N-Size of 10 students including FAY and non-FAY
- Special Education enrollment bonus points do not require N-Size of 10
- Science Proficiency bonus points do not require N-Size of 10

Schools that do not meet the minimum N-Size of 10 FAY students cannot earn points for that indicator.

RAEL

Recently Arrived English Learner (RAEL) students in year 1 and year 2 students are excluded from proficiency calculations for ELA only.

K-8 Model



Weight	Indicators
30%	Proficiency, Statewide Assessment
50%	Growth, Statewide Assessment
10%	Proficiency and Growth, English Learners
10%	Acceleration / Readiness Measures

The K-8 model is based on a scale of 0-100 points for schools that have all available indicators; the scale is adjusted for those indicators that do not meet the N-Size. Indicators must have a minimum of 10 FAY students to count, excluding components in the Acceleration/Readiness indicator, special education enrollment bonus points and science proficiency bonus points. All indicators are capped at the total percent possible.

The following school configurations are graded on the K-8 model:

- K-8
- Configurations within K-8
 - o K-4
 - o K-5
 - o K-6
 - o K-7
 - 0 6-8
 - o **5-8**
 - 0 1-4
 - o Etc.

Proficiency

Proficiency results are worth 30% of a K-8 school's letter grade. The 2022 AASA or MSAA ELA and Math scores are utilized for grades 3-8 FAY students. Schools must have a minimum of 10 FAY students to be eligible for points. If a student took the same assessment twice, the higher score is utilized. Invalid test records count as not tested. Proficiency points are capped at 30. The achievement levels are weighted such that students scoring highly proficient earn the most points (see below).

Achievement Level	Point Value
Minimally Proficient (1)	0
Partially Proficient (2)	0.6
Proficient (3)	1.0
Highly Proficient (4)	1.3

K-8 proficiency is calculated two ways: using a stability model and then all FAY students (1-, 2-, and 3-year). The higher of the two proficiency point totals will be used for letter grade calculations.

Stability model: This model weights student scores higher for students that have been at the same school for multiple years, and where the school has had the greatest opportunity to have the most impact, (see Table below for more detail). Schools that only have one or two years of proficiency will be weighted accordingly. Schools must have a minimum of 10 FAY students for each year. If the minimum is not met, those students are added to the next year. For example, if a school has eight 3-year FAY students, thirteen 2-year FAY, and twenty 1-year FAY students the 3-year and 2-year FAY group is merged as the minimum is not met for the 3-year. This would give the school twenty-one 2-year FAY students and twenty 1-year FAY.

	Max Proficiency Weights		
	3 years 2 Years 1 Ye		1 Year
Years of Data	of FAY	of FAY	of FAY
3 Years	15	10	5
2 Years (Example: only serves Grade 7-8)		18	12
1 Year (Example: School created two years ago)			30

The percent proficient for each year of FAY for which a school is eligible is then weighted accordingly using the table above to determine points earned.

All FAY students: This model weights all FAY (1-,2-, and 3-year) students equally.

Percent Tested

Proficiency calculations are impacted by percent tested. Schools that do not meet the 95% test threshold mandated by law are negatively impacted on the proficiency calculation. Students are included in the 95% tested calculation for a school if they are enrolled in a tested grade (3-8) on the first day of the AASA state testing window.

The formula used is to calculate percent tested:

In Fiscal Year 2022, the first day of the AASA State Testing Window is April 4th, 2022.

Percent Proficient for Schools that Meet 95% Tested

```
% Proficient for Schools Meeting 95% Tested  = 100 \begin{bmatrix} ((No.\ of\ FAY\ students\ PP\ on\ ASAA\ or\ MSAA\ ELA + No.\ of\ FAY\ students\ PP\ on\ AASA\ or\ MSAA\ Math) 1.0) \\ + ((No.\ of\ FAY\ students\ PP\ on\ ASAA\ or\ MSAA\ ELA + No.\ of\ FAY\ students\ PP\ on\ AASA\ or\ MSAA\ Math) 1.3) \end{bmatrix}
```

Schools that do not meet 95% tested will see an increase in the denominator of their proficiency calculation. The total number of students added to the denominator (and thereby included in the numerator as 0) equals the number of students needed to meet the 95% test threshold.

Example: A school was supposed to test 100 students. They tested 92. The school needed to test 95 students to meet or exceed the 95% test threshold. Because they did not meet the threshold we do the following:

Number of students needing to test to meet 95% – number of students actually tested

The number generated from the above subtraction is then added to the proficiency calculation denominator (see formula below).

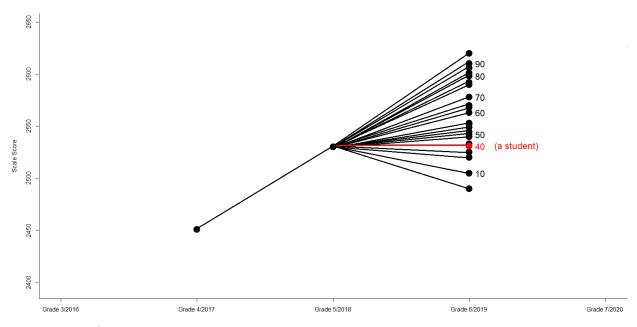
Percent Proficient for Schools that DO NOT Meet 95% Tested

Arizona Growth Model

Arizona utilizes the Student Growth Percentile (SGP) model to assess students' academic growth (Betebenner, 2011). A Student Growth Percentile describes the growth of a student based on his/her current year test score compared with the current year test scores of those students with the exact same prior test scores — his/her academic peers. A student demonstrates higher growth when his/her current-year test scores are higher than most of his/her academic peers, and lower growth when his/her current-year test scores are lower than most of his/her academic peers. To achieve this goal, the model employs quantile regression that relates the prior scores of each grade by subject cohort with their current-year scores. The growth model includes only academic achievement data; it does not control for student demographic information or subgroup membership.

The SGP model provides two growth indicators: The Student Growth Percentile (**SGP**) and the Student Growth Target (**SGT**).

An **SGP** describes the "ACTUAL" growth a student made in a school year by comparing a student's current-year test score with the current-year test scores of his/her academic peers. An SGP of 40 means that the student grew more than 40% of his/her academic peers in a school year.



Student Growth Percentile for an example student in the cohort "Grade 4/2017, Grade 5/2018, Grade 6/2019"

An **SGT** is the "EXPECTED" growth a student ought to exhibit in the year to achieve a future target in a pre-determined time frame. In the 2018-2019 school year, there were two pre-established targets: 'Proficient' and 'Highly Proficient'. The time frame to reach the target was determined arbitrarily as within (or across) the next three years beyond the current year or by high school graduation, whichever comes first.

For students who were at the 'Minimally Proficient' performance level and the 'Partially Proficient' performance level in the prior year, their SGTs were the minimum growth they need demonstrate from the prior year to the current year to be on track to reach the target of 'Proficient' within the next three years. They were labeled as 'Catch-Up' students.

There were two targets for students who were at the 'Proficient' performance level and the 'Highly Proficient' performance level in the prior year. Their first target was the minimum growth they need to demonstrate from the prior year to the current year to remain above the target of 'Proficient' across the next three years. These students were therefore labeled as 'Keep-Up' students. For the students who were currently proficient, the second SGT was the minimum growth they need to demonstrate to move up to the 'Highly Proficient' level within the next three years. They were also labeled as "Move-Up" students. For the students who were currently highly proficient, the second SGT was the minimum growth they should demonstrate to remain at the highest performance level across the next three years. They were also labeled as "Stay-Up" students.

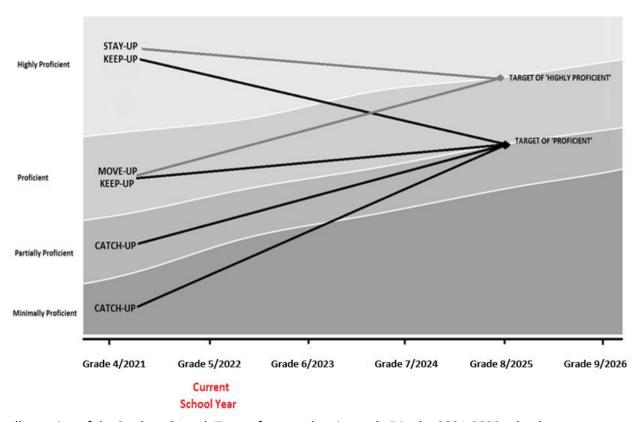


Illustration of the Student Growth Target for a student in grade 5 in the 2021-2022 school year

Growth Model for the 2021-2022 School Year

In the 2021-2022 school year, Arizona is going to administer Arizona's Academic Standards Assessment (AASA) for students in grades 3-8, ACT Aspire, and ACT for students in high school. The transition to the new statewide achievement assessments and the lasting impact of the pandemic poses new challenges for the use of the growth model in the 2021-2022 school year, which requires additional research and validation before enough confidence can be put in the growth data of this year.

The table below lists the assessments administered or scheduled to be administered in the 2018-2019 school year, the 2020-2021 school year, the 2021-2022 school year, and the 2022-2023 school year. The statewide achievement assessments were cancelled in the 2019-2020 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

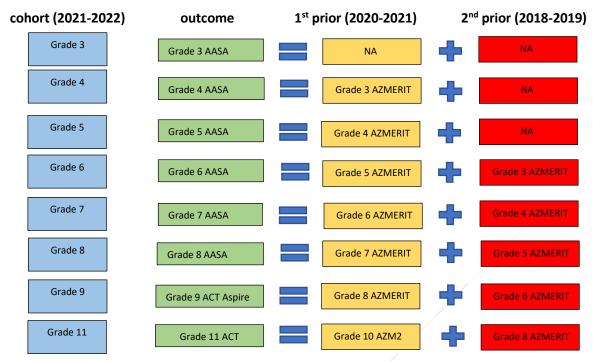
School Year	Grades 3-8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11
2018-2019	AZMERIT	AZMERIT EOC/	AZMERIT EOC/	AZMERIT EOC/
		Menu of Assessment	Menu of Assessment	Menu of Assessment
2019-2020	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2020-2021	AZMERIT		AzM2	
2021-2022	AASA	ACT Aspire		ACT
2022-2023	AASA	ACT Aspire		ACT

Student Growth Percentile (SGP) for the 2021-2022 School Year

The 2021-2022 school year will be the first school year when we are going to link the ACT scores or the ACT Aspire scores with the historical scores from AZMERIT or AZM2 to produce the growth data for high school students. In addition, in the school years before the pandemic, the growth model links the current-year scores of each grade by subject cohort with their scores from the immediate prior year and from the second prior year if available. In the 2020-2021 school year, the current-year scores were linked to the scores from the 2018-2019 school year and from the 2017-2018 school year with the scores from the 2019-2020 school year being skipped. In the 2021-2022 school year, the scores from the current school year and the first prior year (2020-2021) are available, but the scores from the second prior year are absent as the statewide achievement assessments were cancelled in the 2019-2020 school year. A few key questions then arise about an appropriate way to construct the growth model in this school year:

- Will the linkage of the ACT or ACT Aspire scores to the historical scores from AZMERIT or AZm2
 produce a good enough model fit? When the model fits the data perfectly, a low performing
 student and a high performing student will have an equal chance to receive a high SGP as well
 as a low SGP. Notable deviations from this ideal situation would be an indication of poor model
 fit.
- 2. Will the growth model that links the current-year scores only to the scores from the immediate prior year fit the data well?
- 3. Will the inclusion of the scores from the 2018-2019 school years as a second prior score improve the model fit?
- 4. Will the inclusion of the scores from the 2018- 2019 school years as a second prior score put these schools that serve higher grades a more/less favorable position than their counterparts that serve lower grades?

These questions need to be answered by impact data before the optimum model can be decided for the 2021-2022 school year. The table below details the score history that could be possibly included in the model for each grade in the 2021-2022 school year.



Student Growth TARGET (SGT) for the 2021-2022 School Year

The Student Growth Target (SGT) can be set up prospectively as the expected growth a student needs to make in the <u>NEXT</u> school year in order to be proficient or highly proficient in the predetermined time frame, it can also be set up retrospectively as the expected growth a student needs to make in the CURRENT school year in order to be proficient or highly proficient in the predetermined time frame. This retrospective SGT can be compared to the SGP to determine if a student is on track to be proficient or highly proficient. Arizona has been using the retrospective SGT together with the SGP for state accountability, and the prospective SGT has been released to schools for the purpose of guiding instruction in the coming school year. The table below lists the retrospective SGT and the prospective SGT for students in each grade in the 2021-2022 school year. To simplify the demonstration, this table uses "being proficient" as the target. The predetermined time frame is in the next three years or by grade 11 as grade 11 is the last chance for students to take the statewide achievement assessments. This is the time frame Arizona has been using for years to determine the SGT.

Cohort(2021-2022)	retrospective SGT for the 2021-2022 school year	prospective SGT for the 2022-2023 school year
Grade 3	NA	the sufficient growth the student needs to make in the
		2022-2023 school year to reach proficiency by grade 7
Grade 4	the sufficient growth the student needs to make in the	the sufficient growth the student needs to make in the
	2021-2022 school year to reach proficiency by grade 7	2022-2023 school year to reach proficiency by grade 8
Grade 5	the sufficient growth the student needs to make in the	the sufficient growth the student needs to make in the
	2021-2022 school year to reach proficiency by grade 8	2022-2023 school year to reach proficiency by grade 9
Grade 6	the sufficient growth the student needs to make in the	the sufficient growth the student needs to make in the
	2021-2022 school year to reach proficiency by grade 9	2021-2022 school year to reach proficiency by grade 11
Grade 7	the sufficient growth the student needs to make in the	the sufficient growth the student needs to make in the
	2021-2022 school year to reach proficiency by grade 11	2021-2022 school year to reach proficiency by grade 11
Grade 8	the sufficient growth the student needs to make in the	the sufficient growth the student needs to make in the
	2021-2022 school year to reach proficiency by grade 11	2021-2022 school year to reach proficiency by grade 11
Grade 9	the sufficient growth the student needs to make in the	the sufficient growth the student needs to make in the
	2021-2022 school year to reach proficiency by grade 11	2022-2023 school year to reach proficiency by grade 11
Grade 11	the sufficient growth the student needs to make in the	NA
	2021-2022 school year to reach proficiency by grade 11	

The retrospective SGT requires a new statewide achievement assessment to be administered for at least

two school years. AASA is expected to have the same standards, the same scale, as well as the same cut scores as AZMERIT. Therefore, if the time frame for students to be proficient remain the same, we may be able to produce the retrospective SGTs for the students in grades 4 and 5. However, the SGTs for the students beyond grade 5 are the sufficient growth for them to reach proficiency by grade 9 or grade 11 when they are going to take ACT Aspire or ACT. ACT Aspire and ACT are the assessments different from AZMERIT or AZM2 and the 2021-2022 school year will be the first school year we administer the two assessments as the statewide achievement assessments for high school students. It is for certain that we will not be able to produce the retrospective SGTs for the students in grade 6 and beyond for the 2021-2022 school year. It is wise, therefore, not to recommend the use of the retrospective SGT for state or federal accountability in the 2021-2022 school year.

We should still be able to produce the prospective SGTs for every student in grades 3-9 for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year and release them to schools for the purpose of guiding classroom instruction. The academic performance of all the students in Arizona has been largely impacted by the pandemic and the prospective SGTs will be an important tool for us to gauge if we are on track to bring students back to where they were. If the prospective SGTs for the 2022-2023 school year indicate that most students will be expected to make an unrealistically high growth in order to be proficient or highly proficient in the next three years or by grade 11, either the targets or the time frame to reach the targets need to be adjusted.

Calculation of Growth Score for the 2021-2022 School Year

Only the SGPs of FAY students contribute to the school's growth score. A categorical evaluation of school growth is used to obtain the growth score of all students in a school. To do this, the SGPs of FAY students are classified into three levels ranging from low to high:

L= Low (SGP 1-33)
A= Average (SGP 34-66)
H= High (SGP 67-99)

Then the percentage of students at the school level, using all grades, is calculated separately for each subject (English Language Arts and Mathematics) and for each of the categorical growth bands defined by the students' prior-year achievement level and current-year SGP growth level. The percentages are then weighted differently in the following ways:

Current-Year Student Growth Percentile				
Prior-Year Achievement Level	Weights			
Highly Proficient (HP)	0 1.00 1.00			
Proficient (P)	0 1.00 1.20			
Partially Proficient (PP)	0 1.00 1.80		1.80	
Minimally Proficient (MP)	0 1.00 2.00		2.00	
	1-33	34-66	67-99	
	Low Growth	Average Growth	High Growth	

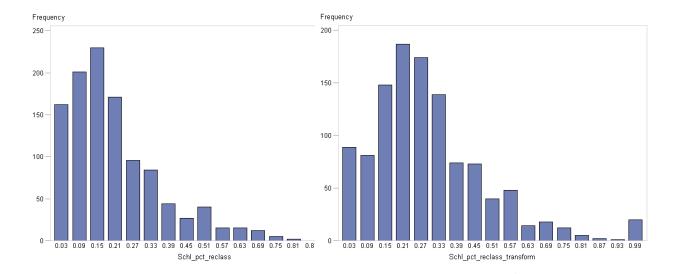
The formula for the overall score of a school for each subject is:

```
The SGP points of a school for each subject = \begin{pmatrix} (\% \text{ of PY MP FAY students who made high growth } x2.00) \\ +(\% \text{ of PY PP FAY students who made high growth } x1.80) \\ +(\% \text{ of PY P FAY students who made high growth } x1.20) \\ +(\% \text{ of PY HP FAY who made high growth } x1.00) \\ +(\% \text{ of PY (MP + PP + P + HP) who made average growth)} \end{pmatrix}
```

Total Growth Points = $100(0.25x(SGP\ Math) + 0.25x(SGP\ ELA))$

Normalizing (Transforming) EL Data

- While ideally all data would be normally distributed, most data is not. Normally distributed data
 means when visualized through a histogram that data is bell-curve shaped. Further, the mean
 (average) and median (the midpoint of the data) of the data are approximately the same. When
 data does not have a normal distribution, this is called a non-normal distribution. When data has
 a non-normal distribution, data can be "transformed" to have a normal distribution. Below is an
 example of non-normally distributed data and the same data that has been transformed to have
 a normal distribution.
- Data transformation means applying the same mathematical operation to each piece of the
 original data. The transformation process changes every school and student in the same way. A
 variety of statistical methods are used for normalizing data based upon which approach
 provides a distribution as close as possible to normal.
- Once transformed, the relationship between data points does not change, but the relationship
 across data points does. Transformation modifies all the data, in the same way, to normalize the
 distribution as much as possible. Individual school or student performance is not damaged or
 improved during the transformation process.
- Data is normalized for two reasons. First, most statistical methods used to analyze data include
 an assumption of a normal distribution. For potential analysis to be as accurate as possible, data
 needs to have as close as possible to a normal distribution. Second, letter grade scores are a
 combination of several indicators. For the combined letter grade to be as accurate as possible,
 all data included in the grade calculation needs to approximately have a normal distribution.



EL Proficiency and Growth

English Learner proficiency and growth is worth 10% of a K-8 school's letter grade. Schools must have a minimum of 10 AZELLA FAY students to be eligible for the points. EL proficiency is worth 5% and EL growth is worth 5%.

EL calculations include students in grades K-8 with an EL need (e.g., with a less than proficient score on AZELLA in the current or prior fiscal year), including recent arrivals. EL students must also be AZELLA FAY. To be included in the EL growth calculations, two test records are required. Invalid test records count as not tested. Schools with less than 10 AZELLA FAY EL students are not eligible for these points. EL proficiency calculates the proficiency percentage of EL students. The following formula is used.

$$\textit{EL School Proficiency} \% = 100 \\ \begin{bmatrix} (\textit{No. of AZELLA FAY students proficient on AZELLA}) \\ \hline (\textit{No. of AZELLA FAY students with an EL need, including parent withdrawals, who had a valid current AZELLA proficiency level}) \\ \end{cases}$$

To earn proficiency points, the school's EL proficiency percentage is compared to the State's current year proficiency percentage.

ELK – 8 Statewide CY Proficiency %
$$= 100 \left[\frac{\text{(Sum of School Averages that have the necessary AZELLA FAY n - count)}}{\text{(No. of Schools that have the necessary AZELLA FAY n - count to be eligible for points)}} \right]$$

Up to 5 points are awarded for proficiency using the following system:

STANDARDIZED	Range	Points
EL Proficiency is greater than or equal to the EL statewide mean	TBD	5
current year percent proficient.		
EL Proficiency is 0.01 to 0.50 standard deviations below the EL	TBD	4
statewide mean current year percent proficient.		
EL Proficiency is 0.51 to 1.00 standard deviations below the EL	TBD	3
statewide mean current year percent proficient.		
EL Proficiency is 1.01 to 2.00 standard deviations below the EL	TBD	2
statewide mean current year percent proficient.		
EL Proficiency is 2.01 to 3.00 standard deviations below the EL	TBD	1
statewide mean current year percent proficient.		
If a school's EL Proficiency is 0%, due to no reclassification.	TBD	0

EL growth calculates the growth percentage of EL students using their current year compared to prior year AZELLA results, unless they are kindergarten students in which case the placement test is compared to the current year reassessment. Kindergarten students who take a placement test prior to January 1st, 2022 and then take a spring reassessment will be included. In addition, any student who takes a placement exam for the first time by October 1st and then takes a spring reassessment will be included. Students who had a placement exam in one school and a reassessment in another school within the same school year will not be included as they will not qualify as AZELLA FAY.

The table below shows how many points each level of growth is worth.

Prior Year Achievement Level	Current Year Achievement Level	Point Value
Basic/Intermediate	Intermediate	
Pre-Emergent/Emergent	Basic	1
Basic	Intermediate	1
Intermediate	Proficient	
Pre-Emergent/Emergent	Intermediate	
Basic/Intermediate	Proficient	2
Basic	Proficient	
Pre-Emergent/Emergent	Proficient	3

The following formula is used to calculate growth:

$$EL School Growth \% = 100 \begin{bmatrix} (No. of AZELLA FAY students who increased one proficiency level) \\ +(No. of AZELLA FAY student who increased two proficiency levels x 2.0) \\ +(No. of AZELLA FAY students who increased three proficiency levels X 3.0)) \\ \hline No. of AZELLA FAY students tested with an EL need, including parent withdrawals with a valid current and prior year AZELLA proficiency level \\ \end{bmatrix}$$

To earn growth points, the school's EL growth percentage is compared to the State's current year growth percentage.

ELK - 8 Statewide Current Year Growth Percent

 $= 100 \left[\frac{(Sum\ of\ EL\ Growth\ of\ all\ schools\ AZELLA\ FAY\ n-count\ to\ be\ eligible\ for\ points)}{No.\ of\ schools\ that\ have\ the\ necessary\ AZELLA\ FAY\ n-count\ to\ be\ eligible\ for\ points} \right]$

Up to 5 points are awarded for growth using the following system:

STANDARDIZED	Range	Points
EL Growth is greater than or equal to the EL statewide mean	TBD	5
current year percent growth.		
EL Growth is 0.01 to 0.50 standard deviations below the EL	TBD	4
statewide mean current year percent growth.		
EL Growth is 0.51 to 1.00 standard deviations below the EL	TBD	3
statewide mean current year percent growth.		
EL Growth is 1.01 to 2.00 standard deviations below the EL	TBD	2
statewide mean current year percent growth.	/	
EL Growth is 2.01 to 3.00 standard deviations below the EL	TBD	1
statewide mean current year percent growth.		
If a school's EL Growth is 0%, due to no growth.	TBD	0

Acceleration/Readiness

The acceleration/readiness indicator is worth 10% of a K-8 school's letter grade. Not all schools are eligible for each metric. Acceleration/Readiness points are capped at 10. The following will be utilized in the Acceleration/Readiness indicator to determine eligibility and points:

Metric	N-Size of 10 or more	Points Available to Earn	
	FAY students to be		
	eligible		
Grade 8 Math Performance	✓	5	
Grade 3 ELA Minimally Proficient	✓	5	
Chronic Absenteeism	10 N-size FAY and	2	
,	non-FAY	2	
Subgroup Improvement	Py subgroup	2 points per subgroup up to 6 points	
	By subgroup	total	
Special Education Inclusion	✓	2	

Acceration Readiness Proficiency comparisons in the current year will be compared to the 2021-2022 school year or the most recent assessment available.

Grade 8 Mathematics Performance

The intent of this metric is to incentivize schools to increase their percent highly proficient and decrease their percent minimally proficient from the prior year on the Grade 8 AASA/MSAA Mathematics assessment annually. The calculations include any FAY student who takes the Grade 8 AASA/MSAA

Mathematics assessment in Fiscal Year 2022. Schools can earn points for either the increase of highly proficient, the decrease of minimally proficient, and/or maintaining applicable thresholds of highly proficient and minimally proficient students. It is possible for a school to earn only 2.5 points for meeting highly proficient or minimally proficient criteria or 5 points for meeting both highly proficient and minimally proficient criteria.

Note that in Fiscal Year 2021, the prior year calculations, were based off grade 8 (AzM2/MSAA) assessments.

The following formulas are used to calculate percentages for current year and prior year.

Increasing Highly Proficient

(Total PY FAY enrollment for Grade 8 students)

Decreasing Minimally Proficient

The following details how points are earned.

Grade 8 Mathematics Performance Points (0, 2.5, or 5 points)

- A school's current year percentage of students who take the 8th grade math assessment and score highly proficient is greater than the school's prior year percentage of students who take an 8th grade math assessment and score highly proficient = 2.5 points
- A school's current year percentage of students who take the 8th grade math assessment and score highly proficient is greater than or equal to 60% = 2.5 points
- A school's current year percentage of students who take the 8th grade math assessment and score minimally proficient is less than the school's prior year percentage of students who take an 8th grade math assessment and score minimally proficient = 2.5 points
- A school's current year percent of students who take the 8th grade math assessment and score minimally proficient is less than or equal to 10% = 2.5 points

Grade 3 ELA Reduction in FAY Minimally Proficient

The intent of this metric is to reduce the percentage of grade 3 students who are minimally proficient on AASA ELA from prior year to current year. To be eligible for these points, a school must meet the minimum N-Size of 10 FAY students. Schools can earn five points two different ways:

- 1. Decreasing the school's prior year percent minimally proficient
- 2. Have a current year percent minimally proficient less than 12%

Below are the formulas used to calculate the percentages:

Grade 3 ELA Current Year

$$\textit{Minimally Proficient } \% = 100 \left[\frac{\textit{(No. of CY Grades 3 ELA FAY students who were MP)}}{\textit{(Total CY Grade 3 ELA FAY Students with a valid test score)}} \right]$$

Grade 3 ELA Prior Year

$$\textit{Minimally Proficient } \% = 100 \left[\frac{(\textit{No. of PY Grades 3 ELA FAY students who were MP)}}{(\textit{Total PY Grade 3 ELA FAY Students with a valid test score})} \right]$$

Grade 3 ELA Reduction in FAY MP = (Grade 3 ELA CY MP % - Grade 3 ELA PY MP %)

The following details how points are earned. These are all or nothing points.

Grades 3 ELA Reduction Points (0 or 5 points)

- A school's current year minimally proficient percentage is less than the school's prior year minimally proficient percentage = 5 points
- A school's current year minimally proficient percentage is less than 12% = 5 points
- A school's current year minimally proficient percentage is greater than or equal to the school's prior year minimally proficient percentage = 0 points

Reduction in Chronic Absenteeism

The intent of this metric is to reduce the school's chronic absenteeism percentage from prior year to current year. This calculation includes grades 1-8 students. Students who are flagged as chronically ill in AzEDS are removed from the chronic absenteeism calculation. All absences reported for a student whether excused or unexcused are included. To be eligible for these points, a school must meet the minimum N-Size of 10 students. Schools can earn two points two different ways:

- 1. Decreasing the school's prior year chronic absenteeism percentage
- 2. Have a current year chronic absenteeism percentage less than 4%

Below are the formulas used to calculate the percentages:

CY Chronic Absenteeism
$$\% = 100 \left[\frac{(No.\,of\,\,CY\,\,students\,\,who\,\,have\,\,greater\,\,than\,\,10\%\,\,absences)}{(Total\,\,CY\,\,students)} \right]$$

PY Chronic Absenteeism $\% = 100 \left[\frac{(No.\,of\,\,PY\,\,students\,\,who\,\,have\,\,greater\,\,than\,\,10\%\,\,absences)}{(PY\,\,year\,\,students)} \right]$

Chronic Absenteeism Reduction = $(CY \ Chronic \ Absenteeism \% - PY \ Chronic \ Absenteeism \%)$ The following details how points are earned. These are all or nothing points.

AOI - Chronic Absenteeism

AOI's have two modifications to their Chronic Abseenteeism component. First, Only AOI students that are Full Time Equvilent (FTE 1.0) are eligible for Chronic Absenteeism. Second, chronicly absent students are identified differently at AOIs.

Students are idenfitied for Chronic Abesenteeism at AOIs using the following steps:

- 1) Each FTE 1.0 students Number of Enrolled School Days is calculated. This value is equal to the number of week days the student is enrolled at an AOI up to a maximum of 180 days.
- 2) Each student's Attendance Minutes is calculated based off the number of minutes submitted for attendance.
- 3) Each student's Required Minutes is calculated based off their grade's required instructional time, as defined by A.R.S. § 15-808. Required instructional time is converted into Minutes of Instruction Per School Day, which is then multiplied by each student's Number of Enrolled School Days.

Grade	15-808 Hours	Minutes	Minutes of Instruction
			Per School Day
Grades 1 – 3	712	42,720	237.33
Grades 4 – 6	890	53,400	296.67
Grades 7 – 8	1,068	64,080	356

Required Minutes = Minutes of Instruction Per School day * Number of Enrolled School Days

AOI students are chronically absent if Attendance Minutes divided by Required Minutes is less than 90%.

$$\frac{Attendance\ Minutes}{Required\ Minutes} < 90\%$$

AOI's use the same calculation for determining Chronic Absenteeism points as brick and morter schools.

$$\textit{CY Chronic Absenteeism} \% = 100 \left[\frac{(\textit{No. of CY students who have greater than 10\% absences)}}{(\textit{Total CY students})} \right]$$

PY Chronic Absenteeism
$$\% = 100 \left[\frac{(No. of PY students who have greater than 10\% absences)}{(PY year students)} \right]$$

Chronic Absenteeism Reduction = (CY Chronic Absenteeism % - PY Chronic Absenteeism %)

Reduction in Chronic Absenteeism Points (0 or 2 points)

- A school's current year chronic absenteeism percentage is less than the school's prior year chronic absenteeism percentage = 2 points
- A school's current year chronic absenteeism percentage is less than 4% = 2 points
- A school's current year chronic absenteeism percentage is greater than or equal to the school's prior year chronic absenteeism percentage = 0 points

Subgroup Improvement

The intent of this metric is to see annual improvement in subgroup (SG) proficiency in ELA and Math. The following subgroups are evaluated by test subject (ELA, Math):

- 1. White
- 2. Hispanic
- 3. Native American/Alaskan Indian
- 4. Asian
- 5. African American
- 6. Pacific Islander
- 7. Two or More Races
- 8. Special Education
- 9. Economically Disadvantaged
- 10. Parent in Military
- 11. EL and FEP1-4
- 12. Homeless
- 13. Foster care

To be eligible, each subgroup must have a least 10 FAY students at the school level. The n-count must be met in both the current year and prior year. If a school meets the N-Size for all subgroups, they would have 26 chances (13 subgroups times 2 subjects) to earn up to 6 points with each subgroup worth 2 points.

The formulas below are calculated for each subgroup and subject (ELA and Math). The same weighting system used in proficiency calculations is applied to these calculations.

```
SG\ CY\ Proficiency\ \% = 100 \begin{bmatrix} ((No.\ of\ CY\ FAY\ students\ in\ the\ SG\ that\ are\ PP\ on\ ASAA\ or\ MSAA)0.6)\\ +((No.\ of\ CY\ FAY\ students\ in\ the\ SG\ that\ are\ PP\ on\ ASAA\ or\ MSAA)1.3)\\ \hline (Total\ CY\ FAY\ students\ in\ the\ SG\ who\ took\ the\ test) \end{bmatrix}
SG\ PY\ Proficiency\ \% = 100 \begin{bmatrix} ((No.\ of\ PY\ FAY\ students\ in\ the\ SG\ that\ are\ PP\ on\ AzM2\ or\ MSAA)0.6)\\ +((No.\ of\ PY\ FAY\ students\ in\ the\ SG\ that\ are\ PP\ on\ AzM2\ or\ MSAA)1.3)\\ \hline (Total\ PY\ FAY\ students\ in\ the\ SG\ who\ took\ the\ test) \end{bmatrix}
```

The following details how points are earned. These points are incremental, such that a school can earn

Subgroup Improvement Points (Up to 6 points; each subgroup and subject is worth 2 points)

- Each subgroup and subject is evaluated separately
- If eligibility is met:
 - A school's subgroup current year proficiency percentage is greater than the school's subgroup prior year proficiency percentage = 2 points
 - A school's current year subgroup proficiency percentage is less than or equal to the school's subgroup prior year proficiency percentage = 0 points

Special Education Inclusion

The intent of this metric is to reward schools that have greater than the state average (TBD) of special education (SPED) students in general education classroom at least 80% of the day. This calculation includes grades K-8 students. To be eligible for these points, a school must meet the minimum N-Size of 10 FAY students.

```
\frac{School \ Level \ FAY \ SPED \ Inclusion \ \%}{No. \ of \ FAY \ SPED \ students \ spending \ 80\% \ of \ more \ of \ their \ day \ in \ the \ general \ education \ classroom}{(Total \ CY \ FAY \ enrollment)}
```

Special Education Inclusion Points (0 or 2 points)

 Schools with greater than TBD of their FAY population in special education spending 80%+ of their day in the general education classroom receive points

Bonus Points

Schools can earn bonus points two different ways.

Special Education Enrollment

Schools with high populations of FAY students enrolled in special education will earn bonus points. Bonus points were awarded based on the distance from the school's percentage to the statewide average.

The following formulas are used for the calculations:

School Level CY FAY SPED Program Enrollment %
$$= 100 \left[\frac{(No. of \ CY \ FAY \ students \ who \ are \ enrolled \ in \ a \ SPED \ program)}{(Total \ CY \ FAY \ enrollment)} \right]$$
Statewide CY FAY SPED Program Enrollment %
$$= 100 \left[\frac{(No. of \ CY \ FAY \ students \ who \ are \ enrolled \ in \ a \ SPED \ program)}{(Total \ CY \ FAY \ enrollment)} \right]$$

FAY Special Education Program Enrollment Bonus Points (0, 1, 1.5, or 2 points)

Points are awarded based on the following:

Bonus Points	Range
2	At or above 80% of the statewide average (TBD)
1.5	At 70% to 79% of the statewide average (TBD)
1	At 60% to 69% of the statewide average (TBD)
0	Below 60% of the statewide average (TBD)

Science Proficiency

Schools that administer the AzSCI test to 95% of their Grade 5 and/or Grade 8 students can earn up to 3 bonus points on science achievement of FAY students. Bonus points were awarded based on the distance from the school's percentage to the statewide average.

The following formula is used for the calculations:

Science Percent Proficient =
$$100 \left[\frac{(No.\,of\,CY\,FAY\,students\,that\,are\,P\,or\,HP\,on\,AzSCI\,or\,MSAA-Science)}{(No.\,of\,FAY\,students\,tested\,on\,AzSCI\,or\,MSAA-Science)} \right]$$

The following details how points are earned.

Science Proficiency Bonus Points (0, 1.5 or 3 points)

- A school's current year percentage of proficient students is greater than or equal to one standard deviation above the statewide average (TBD) = 3 points
- A school's current year percentage of proficient students is greater than the statewide average (TBD) and less than one standard deviation above the average (TBD) = 1.5 points.

Calculating Total Points

Schools that meet the N-Size for every indicator can earn up to 100 points:

Schools that meet the N-Size for every indicator except for EL Proficiency and Growth can earn up to 90 points:

Letter Grade

$$= 100 \sqrt{\frac{\left[\left(0.30(Proficiency)\right) + \left(0.50(Growth)\right)\right]}{+\left(Acceleration - Readiness Points)}} + Bonus Points$$

Schools that do not meet the N-Size EL Proficiency and Growth and do not qualify for any acceleration/readiness indicators (i.e., do not meet the N-Size of 10 FAY students or is not eligible) can earn up to 80 points:

Letter Grade

$$= 100 \left| \frac{\left[\left(0.30 (Proficiency) \right) + \left(0.50 (Growth) \right) \right]}{80} \right| + Bonus\ Points$$

Schools without enough students to be eligible for 80 points will be not rated in Fiscal Year 22.

Appendix

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym/Abbreviation	Meaning
AASA	Arizona's Academic Standards Assessment
ADM	Annual Daily Membership
AOI	Arizona Online Instruction
AVG	Average
AzEDS	Arizona Education System
AZELLA	Arizona English Language Learner Assessment
AzMerit/AzM2	Arizona's Measurement of Educational to Inform Teaching
AzSCI	Arizona Science Test
CCRI	College and Career Readiness Index
CY	Current Year
EL	English Language
ELA	English Language Arts
EOC	End of Course
FAY	Full Academic Year
FY	Fiscal Year
HP	Highly Performing on AASA
MP	Minimally Performing on AASA
MSAA	Multi-State Alternate Assessment (Math, ELA)
MSAA Science	Multi-State Alternate Assessment Science Test
No.	Number
Р	Proficient Performing on AASA
PP	Partially Performing on AASA
PY	Previous Year
RAEL	Recently Arrived English Learner
SG	Subgroup
SPED	Special Education
SGP	Student Growth Percentile
SGT	Student Growth Target