

ACCOUNTABILITY & RESEARCH

# THE GRADER

March 2022 Edition

ACCOUNTABILITY SEASON IS APPROACHING	2
ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL APPLICATION INFORMATION AND TIMELINE	5
PUPIL WITHDRAWAL MONITORING	6
ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS ON-TRACK TO GRADUATE	7
TIMELINE	8



## CONTACT

[Achieve@azed.gov](mailto:Achieve@azed.gov)

(602)542-5151



## Accountability Season is Approaching

Arizona schools will be preparing for summer classes and prepping for summer break before we know it. With only three more months of the regular calendar year, state and federal accountability calculations and preparations have begun. This article will assist in understanding what to expect, how you can start to prepare, and where to go for information.

**Items Effecting Both State and Federal Accountability:** The following items will facilitate a more accurate static file and allow for effective communication throughout the accountability season:

- Ensure school and district teams are checking student integrity reports and working to clear all errors.
- Continue to work with the various programs to verify enrollment such as Special Education, English Learners, Migrant, Homeless, and Parents in the Military.
- Update, when necessary, pupil withdrawal codes.
- **Note: There has been no waiver of the 95% testing requirement.** Prepare for testing, whether that is the AZELLA Reassessment testing, or the upcoming AASA for ELA and Mathematics, ACT Aspire, ACT and AzSCI. Be sure to reach out to the Assessment team if there are any questions regarding the administration of the tests.
  - Testing Inbox – (602)542-5031 – [Testing@azed.gov](mailto:Testing@azed.gov)
  - AASA Inbox – [AASA@azed.gov](mailto:AASA@azed.gov)
  - AZELLA Inbox – [Azella@azed.gov](mailto:Azella@azed.gov)
  - AzSCI Inbox – [AzSCI@azed.gov](mailto:AzSCI@azed.gov)
  - Alternative Assessment Inbox – [AssessingSWDs@azed.gov](mailto:AssessingSWDs@azed.gov)
- Refer to the Grader Articles for the most up-to-date information. Click [HERE](#) for previous editions.
- Review the student level reports on ADEConnect for Graduation, Dropout, and Persistency and make the necessary corrections as needed.
- Contact Achieve with questions either by phone or email
  - [achieve@azed.gov](mailto:achieve@azed.gov)
  - (602)542-5151

**State Accountability A-F Letter Grades:** There is no waiver/hiatus of state A-F letter grades proposed by this year's Arizona legislators. The decisions of our legislators are being monitored daily for any impact or changes to the five-year accountability plan. Here are some things that you can do to prepare for School year 2021-2022 A-F Letters grades:

- Alternative School's On-Track to Graduate initial submission is open and available on ADEConnect. **CLOSING DATE: March 15, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.**
- Schools serving 12<sup>th</sup> grade should be preparing the Traditional or Alternative CCRI spreadsheets. Although they are not loaded into ADEConnect yet, they are available on the website:
  - [Traditional CCRI with instructions FY22](#)
  - [Alternative CCRI with Instructions FY22](#)
- Alternative Schools should be prepping their Credit Earned submission:
  - [FY22 Credits Earned](#)
- Draft Business Rules can be found here:
  - [Fiscal Year 2022 K-8 Traditional Schools Business Rules \(Posted 2/7/2022\)](#)
  - [Fiscal Year 2022 9-12 Traditional Schools Business Rules \(Posted 2/7/2022\)](#)
  - [Fiscal Year 2022 Alternative Schools Business Rules \(Posted 2/7/2022\)](#)
- Updates are currently taking place regarding other support materials.

There have been no changes to the State A-F Five-Year Accountability plan. The most recent information on the five-year plan can be found in the Arizona State Board meeting materials found [HERE](#).

**Federal Accountability:** Arizona has submitted an addendum based on allowable changes. The United States Education Department (USED) must approve the addendum, until such time the following proposals are preliminary:

- Arizona has requested to postpone our long-term goals and measurement of interim progress for Academic Achievement, Graduation Rate, and Progress in Achieving English Language Proficiency for **two years**.
- K-8 schools will have the Chronic Absenteeism indicator decreased from ten points to two points with the eight points being reallocated to the Growth indicator.

- Schools that serve grades K-11 or K-12 with a crossover between K-8 and 9-12 will have Chronic Absenteeism removed without the reallocation of points. Dropout will serve as the sole School Quality and Success indicator.
- Arizona will not use results from the 2019-2020 and the 2020-2021 school years, except when calculating growth.
- To ensure schools do not remain in Comprehensive School Improvement (CSI) due to a COVID anomaly, schools identified in fall of 2022 based on data from the 2021-2022 school year, will be able to exit fall of 2023 based on 2022-23 data.
  - Exit Criteria:
    - a minimum of one year of consecutive increased achievement; and
    - implementation of school improvement goals, strategies, and action steps, in state required Integrated Action Plan; and
    - above bottom 5% of Title I schools considering all applicable criteria.
- To ensure schools do not remain in Additional Targeted School Improvement (aTSI) due to a COVID anomaly, schools identified in fall of 2022 based on data from the 2021-2022 school year, will be able to exit fall of 2023 based on 2022-23 data.
  - Exit Criteria:
    - a minimum of one year of consecutive increased subgroup achievement; and
    - implementation of school improvement goals, strategies, and action steps, in state required Integrated Action Plan; and
    - above bottom 5% of Title I schools considering all applicable criteria.
- Achieve will send out notification either through the Grader or an email when the federal accountability business rules are posted following the decision of USED on the proposed changes.



## Alternative School Application Information and Timeline

All schools serving Grades 6-12 that would like to be considered for Alternative School status for the 2022-2023 school year must complete and submit the Alternative School Application. **Schools operating a Dropout Recovery Program (DRP) must apply for Alternative School status.** The application window opened on February 14, 2022. It will close on March 31, 2022. The following information will be required in the application:

- **An approved mission statement as of the date of the application (Charter schools must have approval from the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools), that clearly identifies its purpose is to serve a specific student population that will benefit from an alternative school setting**
  - Supporting documentation of the mission statement such as the school improvement plan, a student-parent handbook, marketing materials, board agenda, etc.
- Quantitative data regarding the number of students who would meet required alternative student criterion (i.e., those who have a documented history of disruptive behavior issues, the number of students who have dropped out and are now returning, etc.)
  - The total number of students enrolled as of October 1, 2021
    - Schools that will begin operations in the 2022-2023 school year may apply. They must provide all information and their intent to open the in the 2022-2023 school year with the exception of October 1 counts.
      - Schools submitting without prior year data will be given temporary approval until numbers are verified the following school year.
  - School information such as the entity ID, school address, and superintendent's name

More information about Alternative Schools and requirements can be found on our [Alternative Schools](#) page. Please keep in mind that schools must apply each year to be considered for alternative school status even if they have been previously approved.



## Pupil Withdrawal Monitoring

Throughout the school year, schools were randomly selected to participate in this year's pupil withdrawal monitoring. Schools from LEAs identified as participating in Title I Programmatic Cycle 4 Monitoring this year were more likely to be selected. Accountability has notified all the schools that were selected for Pupil Withdrawal monitoring this year.

The monitoring is specific to the "Official Notice of Pupil Withdrawal" form. A link to that document, which includes "Guidance and Procedures", can be found [here](#). Using the proper withdrawal codes ensures the accurate reporting of graduation, dropout, and persistency rates.

Schools that serve students in grades 6 through 12 may want to review the [Graduation, Dropout, and Persistence Rate Technical Manual](#) to understand how exit codes affect these measurements.

Schools that are selected can expect the following steps for the monitoring:

- District and Charter Holders will be notified via their federal program personnel and Superintendents.
- Contacts on whom to work with for the monitoring will be established.
- Materials will be shared on the process to include help documents, contacts, and forms to be used.
- A technical review will be conducted.
- Schools not meeting a threshold of 95% accuracy during the technical review will go through further analysis.

If the second analysis does not result in an 80% accuracy or higher threshold, the schools will be asked to meet additional criteria for the following year



## Alternative Schools On-Track to Graduate

The Fiscal Year 2022 (2021-2022 school year) Alternative School On-Track to Graduate Initial Submission page is now open.

Data must be submitted through the ADEConnect A-F Self-Reporting Data application, by clicking on the Alternative Schools On-Track to Graduate (Initial) link. You can find the submission instructions and template are available on ADEConnect after you have selected your school. You may want to review your spreadsheet from last year in preparation for this year's submission. Links to this year's spreadsheet template are also available on the accountability website Resources page. Found [here](#), under "Guides & FAQ" under "Self-Report Data Guides & Instructions".

**The deadline for this initial submission is Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at the close of the business day.**

You may need to clear your browser's cache to see the most up to date version of the Alternative Schools On-Track to Graduate (Initial) application.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email [Achieve@azed.gov](mailto:Achieve@azed.gov)



## Timeline

Below are important dates and deadlines for Accountability. Please check [The Examiner](#) (Assessment's newsletter) for the most up to date information on assessments.

<p><b>March 2022</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Early March</b> 2021 October 1 enrollment Public Report Released</li> <li>• <b>Early March</b> Cohort 2021 4-year graduation rate report released</li> <li>• <b>03/15</b> Alternative Schools 2020-2021 A-F Initial On-Track to Graduate Submission Closes</li> <li>• <b>03/31</b> Alternative School Status Application closes</li> </ul>
<p><b>April 2022</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>04/01</b> Accountability: What now? – Assessment Webinar</li> </ul>
<p><b>May 2022</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2021 – 2022 A-F Self-Reported Data Application opens on ADEConnect</li> <li>• Schools notified of Alternative Status (Tentative)</li> </ul>
<p><b>June 2022</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2021-2022 Initial Static file released</li> </ul>