THE GRADER
May 2023 Edition

Accountability & Research

ARIZONA
Department of Education

LEA Letter Grades

In the 2022-2023 school year, LEAs will receive an A-F Letter Grade. The LEA Letter Grades will be released Fall of 2023 based on data from the 2022-2023 school year. The letter grades will be based on an unweighted GPA approach: Each school in an LEA will receive points based on their letter grade (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0). The points will be averaged and rounded to the nearest whole number to determine the LEA's letter grade. One-school LEAs will receive the same letter grade as their school. Please see the resources below for additional information:

- Brief video overview
- Link to a copy of the presentation
- Fiscal Year 2023 Business Rules, page 74.
- Materials for the board's original discussion and approval of LEA letter grades can be found here under item 4B.
- Video of the State Board of Education's original discussion and approval

2022-2023 A-F Self-Report Data

The A-F Self Reporting Data application opened on ADEConnect on May 2nd, 2023 in order for schools to submit their self-reported data components (CCRI, Credits Earned, and On-Track to Graduate). The application will close on **July 30th, 2023 at the end of the business day**. After this deadline, schools will no longer be able to submit data for the 2022-2023 school year. Resources are available on our Resources page, which includes FAQs and instructional videos. For additional questions or concerns, please contact Achieve@azed.gov.

2022-2023 Static File Coming Soon

The static file contains assessment and enrollment data for all students included in a school's accountability calculations. The file is only available to schools/districts/charter holders for their students as it contains personally identifiable information (PII). The file contains important information used by ADE, as well as by the field for their own reporting, analysis, or research. Some schools connect static file data to teacher information, instructional/curriculum programs, and interventions to perform additional analysis based on their own unique needs. Below are important static file timelines for this year.

- **Mid-June (Release Version 1)** –
  - This file will contain students' demographics, program participation, and FAY status.

- This file is released as early as possible so that schools have time to correct their student level data prior to the **July 15th cut-off date for student information system corrections**.
- The June V1 static file will not include AZELLA data.
- Two important new fields to validate are the 'FederalModel' and 'StateModel' columns, indicating the model that will be used for Accountability. **Please notify achieve@azed.gov by July 15th if a model change is necessary**.

- June/July – Schools are strongly encouraged to check the Assessment Correction application in ADEConnect to ensure test results are correctly matched to students.
- August (Release V2) – This file will contain assessment results, including assessment corrections submitted by July 15th. This file will include AZELLA data, and should be reviewed for any issues regarding assessments. **Please contact the achieve@azed.gov with any corrections by September 15th**.
- October (Release V3) – This is the final version that will contain all updated information, and will be used for A-F Accountability calculations.

The revised Static File Codebook provides additional information on each column in the static file. It will be available for download in ADEConnect with the release of the Static File V1 in June.

Accountability 101 Guidebook

To support school/LEA staff members who are new to Accountability processes and A-F Letter Grades, we would like to remind the field that the Accountability 101 Guidebook is available here. This document has also been posted on our website under the "Guides & FAQ" tab on our Resources page. The Accountability 101 Guidebook is intended to provide a high-level overview of A-F Letter Grades, share important contacts and resources, and cover some important terms. If possible, we encourage you to include this in training materials for any new staff members expected to work on Accountability/A-F Letter Grade related items.

Using Summer Withdrawal Codes

As a reminder, summer withdrawal codes should be used to indicate changes in a student's enrollment status during the summer. This is how ADE knows to remove students from several calculations such as the graduation rate calculation. For example, if you receive a records request for a student over the summer, you will mark the student with an "S1" withdrawal code to indicate that, over the summer, you received appropriate documentation indicating that the student is now attending another school. Keep in mind that summer withdrawal codes must have an entry and exit date, however the entry date must be at the start of the new fiscal year (July 1) or later and the exit date must occur after the entry date. The Graduation, Dropout,

and Persistence Rate Technical Manual is a great resource regarding entry and withdrawal codes. If you have questions, please contact Achieve@azed.gov.

Year-End Procedures for Withdrawing Concurrently Enrolled 12th Grade or Early Graduating Students

Guidance: Students should receive a graduation code from only one school. Please use the following process for graduating students enrolled in more than one school:

- **The school issuing the diploma should apply the appropriate graduation code: (G, W7, or S7)**
- **Any school in which the student is concurrently enrolled should enter a W1 code prior to the student receiving the graduation code.**
  - Example: A student will receive a diploma from Washington High School, but is concurrently enrolled at Adams High School for CTE courses. Adams High School should exit the student with a W1 prior to the student being exited from Washington High School with a G.

Support: An Arizona student may only graduate from one school after meeting the high school requirement stated in A.R.S. § 15-701.01.

Exit and withdrawal codes are specific to the student's membership at the school and are not aligned to the courses for which they are enrolled. Students who are concurrently enrolled must finish all required coursework and receive credit prior to receiving a graduation code.

The Graduation Rate Technical Manual can be found here.

The Official Notice of Pupil Withdrawal Form can be found here.

Accountability Season is Approaching

Arizona schools are completing the school year and beginning summer preparations. Below is information regarding summer Accountability tasks.

Items/Tasks Affecting Both State and Federal Accountability:
- Ensure school and district teams are checking student integrity reports and working to clear all errors.
- Verify enrollment in subgroups such as Special Education, English Learners, Migrant, Homeless, and Parents in the Military.

ARIZONA
Department of Education

- Update pupil withdrawal codes as necessary.
- Review the student-level reports on ADEConnect for Graduation, Dropout, and Persistency and make any necessary corrections.
- Contact Achieve with questions either by phone or email
  - achieve@azed.gov
  - (602)542-5151

Items/Tasks Affecting State Accountability:
- Schools serving 12th grade should be preparing the Traditional or Alternative CCRI spreadsheets. They are available on ADE Connect and on the Resources page of the Accountability website under 'Guides & FAQ'
  - Traditional CCRI with instructions FY23 (Will download automatically)
  - Alternative CCRI with Instructions FY23 (Click File > Save As > Download a Copy)
- Alternative Schools should be prepping their Credits Earned submission:
  - FY23 Credits Earned (Downloads automatically)
- Approved 2023 Business Rules can be found here:
  - Fiscal Year 2023 Business Rules Anthology (Posted 05/05/2023)

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 HERE.

Items/Tasks Affecting Federal Accountability:

- K-8 schools will have the Chronic Absenteeism indicator return to ten points from the two points set for the year following Covid. The eight-point difference is being returned from the Growth Indicator.
- K-2 schools will have the Chronic Absenteeism indicator added to the model, with points being drawn from the year-lagged proficiency indicator being reduced in order.
- Schools that serve grades K-11 or K-12 with a crossover between K-8 and 9-12 will have Chronic Absenteeism returned to their respective models at 5%, but only measured by students in grades K-8, as the Elementary School Quality and Success Indicator.
- Schools that serve grades K-11 or K-12 with a crossover between K-8 and 9-12 will have Dropout Rate applied only to students in grades 9-12 as the sole High School Quality and Success Indicator.
- In fiscal year 2022, the Growth Indicator included only students in grades 5-8. In fiscal year 2023, for models that include Growth, it will be calculated for grades 4-8.
  - Students need a prior year scale score (from spring 2022) to earn a usable growth score.

- o Schools that serve grades K-11 or K-12 will only have growth scores measured for their students in grades 4-8.
  - o The Federal High School Model does not include growth. High-school-aged students will not have growth measured for their school model (including those students at K-11 or K-12 schools).
- All K-8 school-aged students will have achievement measured on the same indicators, where applicable: Proficiency, EL, Growth, Chronic Absenteeism.
- All high-school-aged students will have achievement measured on the same indicators: Proficiency, EL, Dropout, and Graduation Rate.
- 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.
  - o Fall 2023 Federal Waiver Exit Criteria:
    - Implementation of school improvement goals, strategies, and action steps in state-required Integrated Action Plan;
    - Fall 2023 Comprehensive Achievement Score (CAS) above bottom 5% of Title l schools considering all applicable criteria, as measured by the identification-year target (CAS = 20.99).
- 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 for an identified subgroup population.
  - o Fall 2023 Federal Waiver Exit Criteria:
    - Implementation of school improvement goals, strategies, and action steps in state-required Integrated Action Plan;
    - Fall 2023 Subgroup Achievement Score (SAS) above bottom 5% of Title l schools considering all applicable criteria, as measured by the identification-year target (CAS = 20.99).
- Minor changes to FAY requirements match the FAY definitions used by State Accountability.

Achieve will send out notification, either through the Grader or an email, when the Federal School Improvement Business Rules are available.

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.

ARIZONA
Department of Education

Initial Data Reviews and 15-915 Data Corrections

We recommend that schools and LEAs begin to review both current and prior fiscal year student data to identify if any updates (current year) or 15-915's (prior year) need to be submitted. Some key reports to review include:

- The Graduation Rate Report - available in ADEConnect under Accountability
- The Dropout Rate Report - available in ADEConnect under Accountability
- The Persistence Rate Report - available in ADEConnect under Accountability

If any data is identified that needs to be corrected from a prior fiscal year, we **strongly** recommend that you begin the 15-915 correction process through School Finance as soon as possible to ensure that your correction is completed prior to the close of the Data Inquiry and Correction window at **5:00pm on July 15, 2023.**

For more information on deadlines and submissions, you may visit this important posting from AZEDS and School Finance: https://www.azed.gov/finance/fy-2024-monthly-payment-and-azeds-processing-schedule

Glossary-ADE Years

The Accountability Unit receives many questions about the different ways in which we refer to years. The following cheat sheet provides explanations of the different ways we talk about years.

Name	Description	Examples
School Calendar Year1 (CY)	The calendar year for the school/LEA. Varies by school.	July 25, 2022 to May 15, 2023
Calendar Year1 (General)	The typical calendar year.	January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023
School Year (SY)	The academic year. Runs from July of one calendar year to June of the following calendar year.	May 25th, 2023 is in the 2022-2023 School Year

---

[1] One should carefully review the context of calendar year, because people use the two meanings interchangeably.

		October 31st, 2023 is in the 2023-2024 School Year
Fiscal Year (FY)	The AZ Government's financial accounting year. AZ's Fiscal Year starts on July 1st and ends on June 30th of the following year. Fiscal Year is always identified by the Calendar Year in which the Fiscal Year ends.	May 25th, 2023 is in Fiscal year 2023 October 31st, 2023 is in Fiscal Year 2024
Cohort Year	The year a student is projected to graduate from high school if they graduate on time. Cohort Year is assigned when a student first enrolls in Grade 9 or a US high school for the first time. This only changes in extreme circumstances.	A student who entered high school in Grade 9 during the 2022-2023 school year at the start of the year is assigned Cohort Year 2026. A Grade 10 student moves to Arizona from another state during the 2022-2023 school year. This student keeps 2025 as their Cohort Year. A student from another country enrolls in an Arizona school in Grade 11 during the 2022-2023 school year. That student is assigned Cohort Year 2024.
4, 5, 6, 7-Year Graduation Rates	A school's 4, 5, 6, 7-Year graduation rate is calculated for each cohort using the percent of students that graduated after 4, 5, 6, or 7 years. Graduation rate is calculated based on students' Cohort Year.	In 2022-2023 the following graduation rates will be reported and are available: Cohort year 2022: 4 & 5-Year Graduation Rates Cohort year 2021: 4, 5 & 6-Year Graduation Rates Cohort year 2020: 4, 5, 6 & 7-Year Graduation Rates

ARIZONA Department of Education

	Note graduation rate is always reported a year in lag.	

English Learner (EL) Students

Name	Description	Example
Fluent English Proficiency (FEP)	A number indicating the years since EL service (max 4). Students with a FEP code of 0 are currently receiving EL services.	During the 2022-2023 school year, students that received EL services would have a FEP code of 0. A student who achieved English fluency during the 2020-2021 school year would have a FEP code of 2 for the 2022-2023 school year.
EL Cohort	Members of a graduating cohort that received EL services while in high school	A student who received EL services as a sophomore in 2020-2021, is part of a school's graduating EL Cohort.

Putting it all together.
- Julie entered 9th grade on August 8th, 2016, which is the start of the 2016-2017 School Year and is part of Fiscal Year 2017.
- Julie is assigned a Cohort Year of 2020.
- In March of 2017 Julie passed her AZELLA test and will no longer receive EL services. She is considered FEP 0 for the 2016-2017 year, because even though she passed her AZELLA test she still received services within that year.
- For Julie's Sophomore year (2017-2018) she is considered FEP 1 as she had not received EL services within that year.
- FY 19 was Julie's Junior year and her FEP code was 2.
- In May of 2020, Julie successfully graduated high school with most of Cohort 2020.
- By the end of FY 2023, Julie is included in all of her school's extended year graduation cohorts for 4, 5, and 6- year, including the EL Cohort subgroup.

Timeline

Please also see the Accountability Life Cycle on .

ARIZONA
Department of Education