



ASSESSMENT UPDATES

AUDRA AHUMADA

DEPUTY ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT OF ASSESSMENT

MAY 18, 2023

OVERVIEW

- **Completed Statewide Assessments**
- **Reporting Timelines**
- **English Language Proficiency Assessments Timelines**
- **Accommodations Submission Updates**
- **School and Parent Resources**



**COMPLETED STATEWIDE
ASSESSMENTS
2022-2023**



STATEWIDE ASSESSMENTS- COMPLETED TESTS

- **Achievement Assessments**

- AASA for ELA and Math: 1,239,000 tests completed (All ELA and Math)
- MSAA for ELA, Math and Science: 5,800 completed tests
- ACT Aspire: 430,000 - content areas completed (Grade 9)
- ACT: 80,900 test completed (Grade 11)
- AzSCI: 245,000 tests completed (Grades 5, 8, and 11)

- **AZELLA Reassessment: 101,000 tests completed (Grades K-12)**

- **Alt ELPA: 3,541 completed domains**



REPORTING TIMELINES 2022-2023



REPORTING/RESULTS TIMELINES

•Achievement Assessments (Electronic Results in AZ PAN):

- AASA - May 15: Grade 3; May 25: Grades 4-8
- AzSCI - May 25: Grades 5, 8, and 11
- ACT Aspire – Results available on ACT Aspire PAN. May 25: Cohort 2025/Grade 9
- ACT- Results available in ACT Reporting Portal (success.act.org) 5-8 weeks after test window. Final File June 5, 2023: Cohort 2023/Grade 11

•Alternate Assessments:

- MSAA (ELA and Mathematics) – July 17-September 8, 2023: Grades 3-8 and 11
- MSAA (Science) – October 16-27, 2023: Grades 5, 8, and 11

STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT- HARD COPY REPORTS

Achievement Assessments:

- AASA (Grades 3-8): June 15
- AzSCI (Grades 5, 8, and 11): June 16
- ACT Aspire (Cohort 2025/Grade 9): June 1
- ACT (Cohort 2023/Grade 11): 5-8 Weeks after test windows

Alternate Assessments:

- MSAA (Grades 3-8 and 11): Week of July 17

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY RESULTS TIMELINE

AZELLA Reassessment

- AZELLA Standard Setting Committee - May 22-26
 - Will recommend performance level cut recommendations
- AZELLA Performance Levels approved by State Superintendent
- AZELLA electronic data available to LEAs (via PAN) – July 10
 - Complete reclassification in AZEDs by July 15

Alt ELPA Reassessment

- ALT ELPA Embedded Standard Setting: August 2-3
 - Will recommend performance level cut recommendations to CAAELP States
- Alt ELPA Performance Levels approved by State Superintendent
- Alt ELPA data will be released September 2023



ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATIONS



ACCESSIBILITY - STATEWIDE SURVEY AND MANUALS

The bi-annual Assessment Accommodations Survey is currently open! The results are used to inform future discussion regarding the use of instructional accommodations and considerations for additional allowable accommodations or universal tools. We are seeing responses from all educators. If you have not done so already, please forward the survey to your educators. The survey will close June 1, 2023.

Accessibility Manuals:

<https://www.azed.gov/assessment/accessibility>

A screenshot of the Arizona Department of Education website. The page title is "Accessibility" and it features a section for "Arizona Accommodations Manual" with a list of links: "Accessibility Guidelines (Selecting, Administering, and Evaluating Accommodations for Instruction and Assessment) October 2022", "Achievement Assessments (AASA, AzSCI, ACT, and ACT Aspire) Updated 10/18/22", "Alternate Assessments (MSAA ELA and Math and MSAA Science) Updated 10-31-22", and "AZELLA (Arizona's English Language Learner Assessment) Updated 9/15/2022". Below this is a section titled "ACCESSIBILITY RESOURCES" with four blue buttons: "Inclusion", "UDL (Universal Design for Learning)", "The Formative Assessment Process", and "Access Through Technology".

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SY 2022-2023 Students & Families Educators Administrators Programs & Supports About ADE

Home / Assessments / Accessibility

Accessibility

Arizona Accommodations Manual

- [Accessibility Guidelines](#) (Selecting, Administering, and Evaluating Accommodations for Instruction and Assessment) *October 2022*
- [Achievement Assessments](#) (AASA, AzSCI, ACT, and ACT Aspire) *Updated 10/18/22*
- [Alternate Assessments](#) (MSAA ELA and Math and MSAA Science) *Updated 10-31-22*
- [AZELLA](#) (Arizona's English Language Learner Assessment) *Updated 9/15/2022*

ACCESSIBILITY RESOURCES

- ▶ Inclusion
- ▶ UDL (Universal Design for Learning)
- ▶ The Formative Assessment Process
- ▶ Access Through Technology

ACCOMMODATIONS

Achievement Assessments:

- **AASA, AzSCI, and ACT Aspire:** 611 Additional Accommodation Requests received. 500 of these were submissions for universal tools that do not need to be submitted.
- **AASA, AzSCI, and ACT Aspire:** 263 Special Paper Version requests (Braille, Large Print, Regular Print) received. 18 were not approvable. An additional 13 were for students who qualify for MSAA.
- **ACT:** 10,311 requests received. 9613 approved. Percent approved: 93.2%
- **ACT EL Requests:** 2451 received. 2408 approved. Percent approved: 98.2%

Alternate Assessments:

MSAA embeds accessibility features in the test (e.g., read aloud, zoom/magnification). There is not an ADE approval/submission for MSAA. Information on accommodations are collected within the MSAA platform and available to District Test Coordinators in the district data file.



SCHOOL AND PARENT RESOURCES



PARENT GUIDE TO STATEWIDE ASSESSMENTS

<https://www.azed.gov/sites/default/files/2022/12/Assessment%20Parent%20Guide.pdf>



A Parent Guide to Understanding Arizona's Statewide Assessments



Why are these assessments given?

Statewide Assessments show how well schools are teaching and how well students are learning. These assessments are aligned to Arizona's Academic Standards.

What are the different assessments my child may take?

- Arizona's Academic Standards Assessment (AASA) - English Language Arts and Math
- Arizona's Science Assessment (AzSCI) - Science
- ACT Aspire - English, Math, Reading, Science, Writing
- ACT - English, Math, Reading, Science, Writing
- Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) - English Language Arts, Math, Science (for eligible students)

Who takes these assessments?

Eligible Students in Grades 3-9 and 11

How are these assessments administered to students?

Tests are online. Students have access to universal and embedded tools and supports.

Accessibility Manuals:
<https://www.azed.gov/assessment/accessibility>

When are these assessments given?

These assessments are administered during the spring.

<https://www.azed.gov/sites/default/files/2022/05/Assessments%20Overview%202022-2023.pdf>

When are results available to schools?

Results are one piece of information schools use to support the learning of their students.

- AASA: On or before May 15 for Grade 3; on or before May 25 for Grades 4-8
- AZSCI May 26, 2023
- ACT Aspire: May 25
- ACT: 6-8 weeks after students participated in testing
- MSAA: August of each school year

Resources:

See assessment web pages for specific assessments:
<https://www.azed.gov/assessment>

Specific assessment infographics are posted on the assessment homepage.

Sample Tests:

AASA, AzSCI, ACT, ACT Aspire: <https://home.testnav.com> | MSAA: <https://www.msaaassessment.org/tap/sample-items>

Other Helpful Information and Resources

- All students will participate in Statewide Assessments (English Language Arts (ELA), Math, and Science). It is important that all students can show what they know and can do.
- Arizona does not have any exemptions from participating in these assessments. Statewide Assessments are required by State and Federal Law. (State Law: ARS 15-741; Federal Law: 34 CFR 200.2 Participation in Assessments).
- It is important for the state and schools to know if there are any gaps in their instruction and how to support all students. There are general assessments (AASA, AzSCI, ACT Aspire, and ACT) and alternate assessments for eligible students with significant cognitive disabilities (MSAA, which includes ELA, Math, and Science).

Alternate Assessments for students with significant cognitive disabilities

- Students with significant cognitive disabilities and an Individual Education Program (IEP) may be eligible to participate in an alternate assessment (MSAA). See Eligibility Criteria and Participation Guidelines: (https://www.azed.gov/sites/default/files/2020/10/Alternate%20Assessment%20Eligibility_May%202022.pdf)
- MSAA tests academic skills in reading, writing, math, and science. It is designed to have specific supports such as simplified language, pictures to support the reading passages, and statements reminding students what the question is about. (<https://www.azed.gov/sites/default/files/2020/10/MSAA%20Parent%20Brochure%202020.pdf>). This assessment is administered one-on-one (a teacher and the student). This assessment does not measure non-academic content such as life skills. Other Parent Resources: (https://www.azed.gov/sites/default/files/2021/07/2022_MSAA_Parent%20Guide%20G3_ADA.pdf)
- Universal Tools and Accommodations may be available for your child. See Statewide Accessibility Manuals: (<https://www.azed.gov/assessment/accessibility>)
- For all Statewide Assessments, only allowable accommodations identified in the Statewide Accessibility Manuals will be permitted.

"Administering MSAA allows me to see my students do things I didn't think they could."
- Elementary School Special Education Teacher

"The format of the assessment was appropriate for this student's ability level."
- Special Education Teacher

I really appreciate how easily accessible the testing has become, how they can use different devices like smart boards and tablets, and how important it is to be able to pause the tests and take several sessions to finish each one."
- Special Education Teacher



How can I help my child?

- Remind your child that you and their teacher want them to try their best and that you are there to help them every step of the way.
- Visit the sample tests websites.



FACT SHEET/FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR SCHOOLS

<https://www.azed.gov/sites/default/files/2023/05/AAAC%20Fact%20Sheet%20for%20Schools%20April%202023.pdf>



Assessments

Students with the Most Significant Cognitive Disabilities: FAQ for Schools

1. *What is the purpose of state assessments?*

The purpose of state assessments is to provide opportunities for students to show what they know and can do, aligned to grade-level standards. State assessments are part of an accountability system that aims to improve outcomes for students. As such, state assessments also fulfill federal assessment requirements.

2. *What is the purpose of the MSAA?*

The Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) is a comprehensive assessment system designed to promote increasingly higher academic outcomes for students with significant cognitive disabilities in preparation for a broader array of postsecondary outcomes. Click on the link to ADE's [College and Career Preparedness](#) document to learn more about creating higher expectations for students with significant cognitive disabilities to achieve a fulfilled life beyond high school.

The test assesses academic skills that will be useful when accessing post-school options in various settings in students' community, college, or career. Additionally, it is an opportunity for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities to show what they know and can do, aligned to grade-level standards.

3. *What is the MSAA not intended to do?*

The MSAA should not be used as isolated data in making placement or other educational decisions for students. The MSAA is not designed to inform teacher evaluations or educator or school merit-based incentives. The MSAA does not provide information on student performance in life skills. Although not an intended purpose of the MSAA, some teachers have shared that the test administration provides anecdotal information on student behaviors and engagement.

4. *Where can I see sample items?*

Sample items are available to everyone without needing to log into the platform. Visit [the MSAA Sample Items web page](#) and scroll down to sample items by grade and content area. These sample items are presented in the same way as the operational test.



Assessments

5. *What does test administration look like?*

The MSAA is administered online using a computer, tablet, interactive white board, or other electronic device. Test administrators give the test to one student at a time. Scripted directions provide standardization to test administration. MSAA partners have developed a best practice video that shows what a standard administration looks like. Additional videos address administering the student response check for students who may not have a consistent mode of communication and the administration of the writing prompts. These videos are on [the MSAA sample items page](#), which can be accessed without logging into the MSAA system.

6. *What are the student characteristics of those who take the MSAA?*

First and foremost, eligible students must have a significant cognitive disability (mild, moderate, or severe intellectual disability), must be learning content linked to or derived from state content standards, and must require significant and extensive direct and individualized instruction and substantial supports to achieve measurable gains in grade-level and age-appropriate curriculum.

- Most students: use symbolic language, understand language independently or with cues, use oral speech, initiate and respond to social interactions, read basic words, conduct basic mathematical computations, and count with correspondence.
- Some students: use intentional communication without a command for symbolic language, have an awareness of printed text, rote count, and apply mathematical computations.
- Few students: use cries or facial expressions to communicate, use augmentative communication systems, alert others without engaging in social interactions, and have no awareness of printed text or numbers.

7. *What are the criteria for participation in alternate assessments?*

Students are determined to be eligible for alternate assessments by the IEP team, using the [Alternate Assessment Eligibility Criteria](#).

ADE does not identify specific cutoff scores on academic, cognitive, and adaptive behavior tests for eligibility determination, to allow for the varying strengths and needs of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. Rather, alternate assessment eligibility determination is a holistic approach that incorporates cognitive, academic, and adaptive scores; modified grade level curriculum; and documentation of intense, direct, individualized instruction to make measurable gains. The MSAA was designed for approximately 1% of students who have significant cognitive disabilities. When determining eligibility, IEP teams should consider what evidence demonstrates the most significant cognitive disabilities. LEAs may not add criteria for participation, nor should participation determination be made based on percent

FACT SHEET/FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

<https://www.azed.gov/sites/default/files/2023/04/Fact%20Sheet%20for%20Parents%20April%202023.pdf>



Assessments

Students with the Most Significant Cognitive Disabilities: FAQ for Parents

1. What is the purpose of state assessments?

The purpose of state assessments is to provide chances for students to show what they know and can do regarding grade level academic standards. State assessments are part of an accountability system that aims to improve outcomes for students. State assessments also meet federal assessment requirements.

2. What is the purpose of the MSAA?

The Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) is part of a system created to help students with significant cognitive disabilities (mild, moderate, or severe intellectual disabilities) prepare for opportunities after high school. Research shows that students who learn academic skills are better prepared for post-secondary options. Results of the MSAA can help teachers and parents identify how students are doing academically. It is an opportunity for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities to show what they know and can do in math, English Language Arts (reading and writing), and science. The MSAA does not provide information on life skills or detailed information on academic skills.

3. How is the MSAA different from other state assessments?

The MSAA was created with items at three levels of difficulty (low, medium, and high). Items may start with "reminder statements" to focus the student on the topic ("We are going to read about ratios. Remember, ratios are part of a whole."). The test uses simplified language. Alternate Assessments are given to individual students by a teacher familiar to them. The test also includes built-in supports such as a read aloud option, visual supports, and two or three answer options.

4. How is the MSAA related to what my child does during lessons with the teacher?

Before the MSAA was created, academic standards were broken down into appropriate and accessible for students with significant cognitive disabilities. These are known as *Core Content Connectors*, entry points, or focus connectors help teachers focus on smaller parts of the standards for individual students. Many other resources were created to support teachers with lesson plans. Some districts also use specific lessons from a purchased curriculum.



Assessments

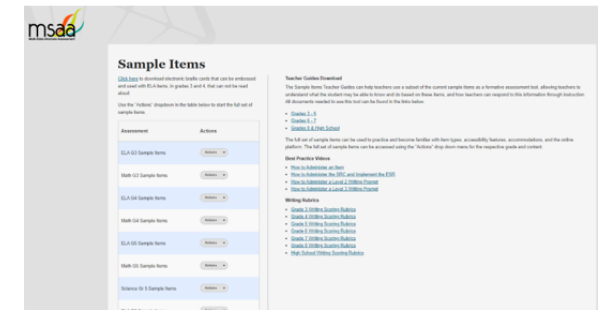
with your child's teacher about how your child is learning English language arts, math, and science.

5. What does the test look like?

The test is given online, using a tablet or computer. Parents may not observe test administration. The test administrator, who is usually the child's teacher, works individually with the child to provide directions, encouragement, and reinforcement. However, parents can see what a typical administration looks like by viewing the "[Best Practice Videos](#)". Remember that additional supports and accommodations may be provided for your child depending on their needs. The IEP documents any features and accommodations your child will use on the test. Please talk with your child's teacher about how additional supports and accommodations will be used for test administration.

6. Where can I see test questions?

[Sample items](#) are available on the MSAA system without logging in to the test. On the left side of the sample test screen (see below) is a list of all the grade levels and content areas. These items are not the actual test that your child will see, but the items on the test do look similar to these sample items.



This document is also translated into Spanish

What help is available for my child to participate in alternate assessments?

The MSAA is created for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities (mild, moderate, or severe intellectual disabilities). This means that students can usually use the type or types of communication that they use in the classroom during instruction. Students can take breaks at any time and as often as needed.

RESOURCES

- Assessment Overview (Calendar)
- Item Specification Documents (blueprints, performance level descriptors)
- Infographics
- Friday Focus Webinars
- Sample Tests
- Accessibility Manuals
- Assessment Bulletins



Welcome to Assessments

The Assessments Section is responsible for statewide assessment of students enrolled in Arizona public schools. The section works closely with educators in the development and administration of statewide assessments. All Arizona public schools, including district schools and charter schools, are required to properly administer state and federally mandated assessments.

Calendars for Statewide Testing

- [Assessments Overview 2023-2024 - New 5-1-2023](#)
- [Assessments Overview 2022-2023 - 7-11-2022](#)
- [Detailed Testing Calendar 2022-2023 - 7-21-2022](#)

2022-2023 Statewide Assessments Infographics

- [AZELLA 2022-2023 - 8-15-2022](#)
- [Alternate Assessments 2022-2023 8-16-2022](#)
- [Statewide Achievement Assessments Overview updated 12-8-2022](#)
 - [AASA updated 12-8-2022](#)
 - [AzSCI - 8-15-2022](#)
 - [Statewide High School Assessments - 8-15-2022](#)
 - [ACT and ACT Aspire Comparison \(2 pages\) - 8-15-2022](#)
 - [Reporting 4-26-2023](#)

For information about the Kindergarten Entry Assessment, please visit the [Early Childhood Kindergarten Entry Assessment](#) webpage.

▶ [New Resource - Assessment Parent Guide](#)

▶ [Friday Focus Webinars 2022-2023](#)

[Accessibility](#)

[Assessments](#) ▾

[Assessments Conference](#) ▾

[District Test Coordinators](#) ▾

[Educator Resources](#)

[Parents and Students](#)

[Technical and Legal Resources](#)

Contact

Testing Inbox

(602) 542-5031
testing@azed.gov

AASA Inbox

AASA@azed.gov

AZELLA Inbox

azella@azed.gov

AzSCI Inbox

AzSCI@azed.gov

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

- Test window dates
- How assessment is used in state and federal accountability
- Who should be administered the test

<https://www.azed.gov/sites/default/files/2023/04/Assessments%20Overview%202023-2024.pdf>



Assessments

2023-2024 Tentative Test Windows

Achievement Assessments

Assessment	Grade(s)	Test Window	
AASA (ELA and Math) */**/**/****/*****	Grades 3-8	Computer-Based Testing: April 1-April 26, 2024 (Writing must be completed by April 12, 2024)	Paper-Based Testing: April 1-April 10, 2024 (Writing must be scheduled for April 1 or 2, 2024)
AzSCI (Science) ****	Grades 5, 8, and 11 (Cohort 2025)	Computer-Based Testing: March 18-April 12, 2024	
ACT Aspire TBD	Grade 9 (Cohort 2027)	Computer-Based Testing: April 1-April 26, 2024	Paper-Based Testing: April 1-April 10, 2024
ACT (with Writing) */**/**/****/*****	Grade 11 (Cohort 2025)	Test Window 1: Paper (Standard): March 26, 2024 Paper (Accommodations): March 26-29 & April 1-5, 2024 Online: March 26-29 & April 1-5, 2024	Test Window 2: Paper (Standard): April 9, 2024 Paper (Accommodations): April 9-12 & April 15-19, 2024 Online: April 9-12 & April 15-19, 2024

English Language Proficiency Assessment

Assessment	Grade(s)	Test Window
AZELLA Placement **/****	KPT & Stages II-V	Two weeks before the first instructional day of school through May 10, 2024
AZELLA Spring Reassessment **/****	Stages I-V	January 29-March 15, 2024
Alt ELPA Operational Field Test **/****	Eligible students in Grades K-12	To Be Determined

Alternate Assessment

Assessment	Grade(s)	Test Window
MSAA – ELA and Math */**/**/****/*****	Eligible students in Grades 3 - 8 and 11	March 11 – April 26, 2024
MSAA – Science ****	Eligible students in Grades 5, 8, and 11	March 11 – April 26, 2024

National and International Assessments

Assessment	Grade(s)	Test Window
NAEP Math, Reading, and Science	Grades 4, 8, and 12 (selected schools will be notified)	January 29 – March 8, 2024
Additional international assessments in Spring 2024 – LEAs will be notified		

QUESTIONS



