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New School Year

Dear Arizona Educators,

We hope the beginning of the school year has gone well. The Accountability Application in [ADEConnect](#) has been updated with the most current data for A-F Letter Grades. It includes calculations for all indicators. The final data piece, MSAA Science results, will arrive in our systems in late October. MSAA Science scores are included in the Science Proficiency Bonus point calculation.

The Technical Advisory Committees recently reviewed cut score analyses. As part of their data validation, LEAs and schools can reference the analysis documents to see how possible cut scores would align with the preliminary point calculations in [ADEConnect](#) (The documents are [located on the committee agenda, item 2B](#) for alternative schools, and [item 2C](#) for traditional schools). To view current letter grade calculations, log in to **ADEConnect**, click the **'View Applications'** button, click the **'Accountability'** link, click the **'State Accountability'** link, click on the **'P'** link on a school's row to view the summary page. On the summary page, refer to the **'Total Points Earned'** value for the final point total.

The current planned timeline is to present the cut score analysis, along with recommendations from the Technical Advisory Committees to the State Board of Education at the September 25th board meeting. The board will then be able to consider and discuss the cut score options and vote on final cut scores at the October board meeting. Final letter grades will be released by November 1, 2023.

The opportunity to apply for appeal of the issued letter grade to the Board will open when letter grades are released. A draft of the policies and procedures governing the process can be found [here](#). To stay up to date, please subscribe to the [Board's newsletter](#).

Please reach out to us with any questions that you have so we can support you during accountability season. We wish you and your students the best year possible.

Sincerely,
Sean Smith

Chief Accountability Officer



2022-2023 Static File V2 Availability

Below is a review of useful information from the May 2023 Grader, with updates highlighted in yellow

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)** – Initial version
- Mid-July (Release V1 updated)
 - This file included assessment corrections submitted by July 15th.
 - This update included AZELLA data and should be reviewed for any issues regarding assessments. **Please contact achieve@azed.gov** with any discrepancies.
- (Release V2) –
 - The second version of the static file has been pushed into ADEConnect, containing corrections and updates. **Please verify and validate data by September 15, 2023.**
 - MSAA Science cut scores were approved at the State Board of Education meeting on August 28, 2023. With the approval, the vendor will process and deliver data in late October.

Notes on the 2022-2023 static file

- This year's static file features several design changes we hope you will find useful. Our goal was to provide a consistent data set of all the student records associated with each school.
- Although only FAY (Full Academic Year) records will be included in most accountability calculations, the static file includes students enrolled at any point during the school year.
 - In other words, you will see students who may not be included in any accountability calculations.
 - The [A-F Business Rules](#) provide inclusion criteria for each accountability component. You can use the inclusion criteria to appropriately select data and verify accountability calculations.
- **ELAMathWindow:** Only records showing enrollment on the first day of the testing window (with an "ELAMathWindow" value of 1) will be included in the percent tested calculations.



- **ADMIntegrity:** Only students who passed the required integrity checks (showing an "ADMIntegrity" value of 1) will be included in any of the Accountability indicators.
- 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** if a model change is necessary.

The revised Static File Codebook provides additional information on each column in the static file. It is available for download in ADEConnect alongside the static file, and at the [link](#) on our resources page.

LEA Letter Grades

Below is a review of useful information from the May 2023 Grader, with updates highlighted in yellow

For the 2022-2023 school year Accountability season, LEAs will receive an A-F Letter Grade. The LEA Letter Grades will be released in 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](#)

Income Eligibility 1&2

As a reminder, to be included in the publicly reported Accountability data sets, students' Income Eligibility I & II data must be entered in the LEA's Student Information System.

Accountability, grants, and other programs each consume the Income Eligibility I and II indicator data for various purposes. **Schools should enter student-level, October 1 data in AzEDS by the tentative January 18th deadline** to reflect the most accurate, student-level information.



New to Accountability?

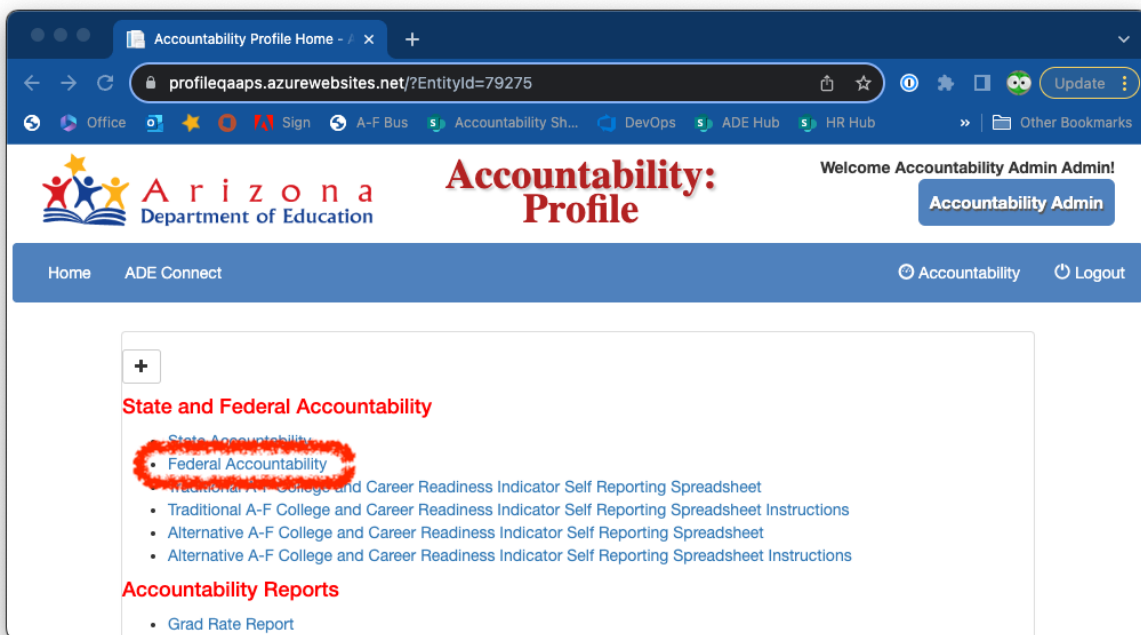
Below is a review of useful information from the May 2023 Grader, with updates highlighted in yellow

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.

New Federal Accountability Portal

In late September, 2022-2023 Federal Accountability data will appear in a new application on ADEConnect. The portal will look similar, while allowing us to better maintain the data for each system. It will also provide you with additional details regarding the Federal guidelines. To access the new application, log in to **ADEConnect**, click the **‘View Applications’** button, click the **‘Accountability’** link, click the **‘Federal Accountability’** link.



District Accountability Coordinator and Training

To improve communication related to Accountability tasks and training, we will begin establishing a District Accountability Coordinator for each LEA. This individual will be the primary contact regarding deadlines and submissions regarding Accountability. As we implement training videos and updates to our resources, we will notify District Accountability Coordinators.

If you are the key staff member responsible for Accountability submissions and data validation in your district, please submit the form [here](#) by September 30th. We will also be reaching out with a follow-up email as we establish a point of contact for the year.

Public Report Timeline

The following is a tentative timeline regarding the release of Accountability's public reports.

- State Assessment Results (AASA, ACT, and MSAA): September
- English Learner Proficiency Results (AZELLA): October
- State Science Assessment Results: October
- Graduation Rate: October
- Enrollment: November
- School Report Cards: November
- Dropout Rate: January

Self-Reported Data Monitoring

Starting in December, we will conduct a basic audit of Self-Report spreadsheets used for A-F Letter Grades Components. A small sample of Traditional 9-12 schools will be selected at random to provide their completed CCRI spreadsheet from the 2022-2023 school year. Additionally, a small sample of Alternative 9-12 schools will be selected at random to provide their completed 2022-2023 spreadsheet for CCRI, Credits Earned, and/or On-Track to Graduate. The person who submitted the points for 2022-2023 (indicated in ADEConnect) will receive a direct notification from our team along with a due date by which they will be required to provide their completed spreadsheet

Federal Business Rules Available

Federal Business Rules Available: Please review the associated [web page](#).



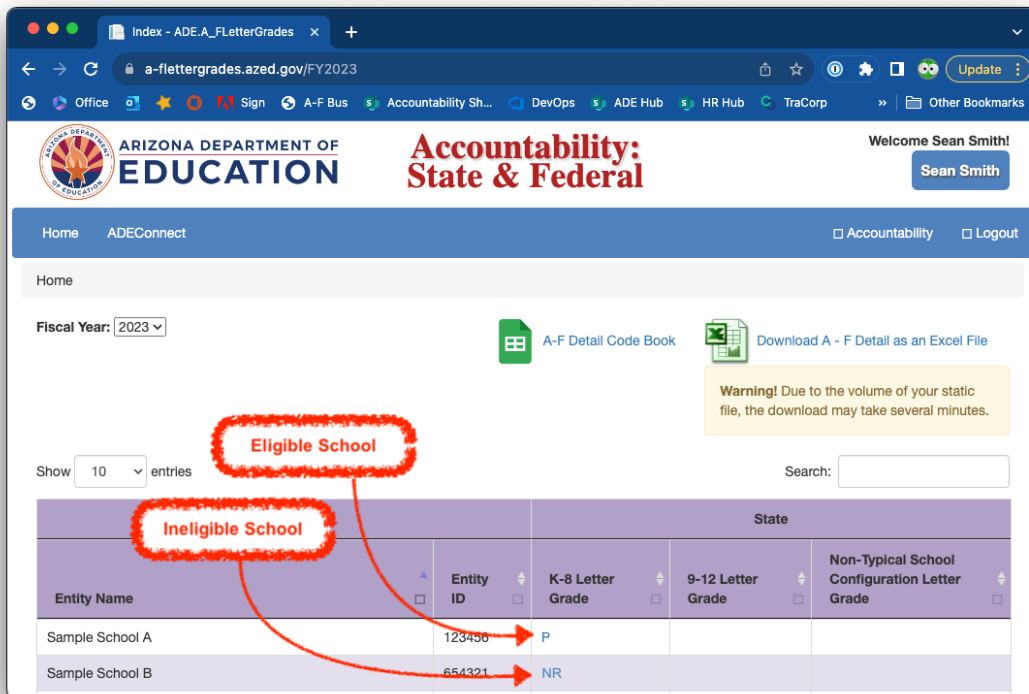
Verify ineligible schools (NR in ADEConnect)

We have completed the initial groundwork to calculate Letter Grades. We ask that school leaders verify their Letter Grade eligibility in the ADE Connect Accountability Application. We want to ensure that all eligible schools receive a grade, and that any ineligible do not accidentally receive a grade. The following list outlines the eligibility criteria.

- Small schools with fewer than 10 FAY students will receive a designation of Not Rated.
- A school with a new entity ID whose first year in operation is the 2022-2023 school year will not receive an A-F Letter grade score.
- To receive an A-F letter grade score, schools must be eligible for the minimum point threshold corresponding to their A-F model, shown below. Schools that do not meet the eligibility threshold will receive a designation of Not Rated (NR)

Model	Minimum Eligible Points
K-8	80
9-12	50
Alternative 9-12	60

Please verify that you have the correct eligibility status in ADEConnect (P for eligible schools, NR for ineligible schools), and contact achieve@azed.gov if any changes are necessary.



A-F Timelines

The following is a tentative timeline that outlines A-F related deadlines. Subject to change.

A-F Event	Dates
Verify Income Eligibility AzEDS student level data	10/31/2023 - 01/18/2024
Alternative Schools Application for fiscal year 2024	02/10/2024 - 03/31/2024
Initial On-Track to Graduate Submission	02/10/2024 - 03/15/2024
Submit CCRI Self-Reported Data	05/10/2024 - 07/31/2024
Submit Credits Earned Self-Reported Data	05/10/2024 - 07/31/2024
Final On-Track to Graduate Submission	05/10/2024 - 07/31/2024
Correct Test Records in ADE Connect	05/15/2024 - 06/30/2024
Validate Graduation Data for fiscal year 2024 graduates	05/25/2024 - 07/01/2024
DRP Application for fiscal year 2024	05/15/2024 - 06/30/2024
Static File V1 Validation	06/20/2024 - 07/15/2024
Static File V2 Validation	08/20/2024 - 09/15/2024
Cut score Presentation	Sept 2024 Board Meeting
Cut Score Approval	Oct 2024 Board Meeting
A-F Public File release on State Board of Education's website	11/01/2024
A-F Appeals Window	11/01/2024 - 11/15/2024
Tentative meeting of A-F Appeals Committee	11/20/2024

Fiscal Year 2024 Initial Approved Alternative Schools

The initial list of approved Alternative Schools for the 2023-2024 school year (Fiscal Year 2024) has been released. We will release the Final List of approved schools by the end of September and will reach out to schools for additional review. You can find the list for Fiscal Year 2023 as well as prior years on our [Alternative Schools](#) page. **Please note that schools approved for Fiscal Year 2024 must reapply in February for Alternative School status for Fiscal Year 2025.**



Integrity Error Guide

Accountability has created a document to help schools troubleshoot Accountability-related integrity errors, such as errors with pupil withdrawals or membership. The document includes error code numbers, the code descriptions, and troubleshooting for each code. This document can be found on the [Pupil Withdrawals](#) page on our website, under “Pupil Withdrawal Resources & Forms”. It can also be accessed directly by clicking [here](#). Please feel free to contact achieve@azed.gov with any questions or comments. For a comprehensive reference guide on integrity rules and errors, please visit the AzEDS Reference page on ADE’s website by clicking [here](#).

Please keep in mind that integrity failures exclude students from important Accountability related reports and documents, including the A-F static file. To see which students are currently failing integrity, please use the INTEG15 – Student Data Integrity Report on the AzEDS Portal through ADEConnect.

School Report Cards Updates

School Characteristics: For those of you that have not already done so, **we strongly encourage all schools to update the School Characteristics section of the School Report Cards website**. The School Report Cards website continues to have heavy traffic and the School Characteristics section is a great opportunity for schools to share what makes them unique with the public. Additional information about the School Characteristics section and how to complete it is available [here](#).

New section — School Goals: the annual update to School Report Cards in January will include a new section for schools to provide “a description of [their] current academic goals” in accordance with [ARS 15-746](#). We will send notification when the new functionality is available, and schools can begin entering goals.

Next Grader: December 2023

We will also provide reminders to District Accountability Coordinators (DACs) on due dates and tasks. To stay informed, please subscribe to our Grader distribution list by emailing achieve@azed.gov.

