THE GRADER

Accountability & Research

February 2024 Edition

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

CONTACT

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New Year Updates

Dear Arizona Educators,

We hope the new year is off to a successful start, and that your holiday season included time with loved ones and relaxation from the important work you do.

Sincerely,
Sean Smith

Chief Accountability Officer

School Report Cards Updates

ACTION REQUIRED: Two new school-defined sections will arrive with the annual School Report Cards rollover in January. Updates to School Characteristics will also populate in the rollover. Read below for information on the sections that require school review Academic Focus (Time required: ~ 5 minutes)

- This **new section** will ask schools to provide important communication to their communities regarding classroom discipline and the school learning environment. See the instructions here for information on completing the attestations.

- Based on your feedback, we are also working to develop a brief comments section (~75 words) that will allow school leaders to provide additional information related to their answers. For example, it may be helpful to provide links to board approved discipline matrices, or course materials.

School Goals (Time needed: varies)

- This **new section** will allow 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.

School Characteristics (Time needed: varies):

- 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.

Withdrawing ESA students

Recently, we've received questions about Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) participants who withdraw to attend a home school. Schools will use the W9/S9 withdrawal codes for home school. However, because ESA participants do not need to submit a home school affidavit, the required documentation is different. Schools will record the **ESA Application ID number**. The full ESA contract contains sensitive information, and schools should not ask to view or keep copies of the entire document. Below are the withdrawal documentation requirements. We will also add guidance to a future update of the Graduation, Dropout, and Persistence Rate Technical Manual.

Documentation Required:
- ESA Application ID number
- Withdrawal Code: W9/S9
- Signed Withdrawal Sheet or Written confirmation

Letter Grade Release

Final school and district letter grades have been released in ADEConnect. You can log in to view and download data. In the coming days, schools approved during the appeals process will see their grades updated. We will also add comments on the appeals results; we hope the additional information will provide helpful context when reviewing the data.

District Accountability Coordinator Information and Training

To improve communication related to Accountability tasks and training, we have begun 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.

We will also be reaching out with a follow-up email as we establish a point of contact for the year.

If you have not yet completed the District Accountability Coordinator form, please do so here.

Alternative School Application Information and Timeline

All schools serving Grades 6-12 that would like to be considered for Alternative School status for the 2023-2024 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 is scheduled to open on February 14, 2024 and close on March 31, 2024. The following information will be required in the application:

- **The mission statement as of October 1, 2023 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, 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, 2023
- 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.

Public Reports Published

Several public datafiles are now available on the Accountability and Research Data page. The most recent reports include:
- Achievement Assessments
- Science Assessments
- English Learner Assessments
- Graduation Rate
- Dropout Rate
- October 1 Enrollment

2023-2024 State Accountability A-F Models

The February Arizona State Board of Education (SBE) meeting will take place February 26, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. Accountability plans to present 2023-2024 State Accountability models and Business Rules for discussion and possible action.

You can view the materials and agenda when posted at this location: https://azsbe.az.gov/public-meetings.

In addition, if you would like to watch the meeting on YouTube, please use this link to access SBE's YouTube page: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsNwAaD9tyciKskyp0R2e5A .

CCRI Spreadsheets Available

In March, the CCRI Self-Reporting Spreadsheets for both Traditional 9-12 and Alternative 9-12 schools will be available on the ADE website location: https://www.azed.gov/accountability-research/resources under "Guides & FAQ. We anticipate only housekeeping changes to the spreadsheet, with no changes planned to any of the point categories.

The completed CCRI results must be submitted through the ADEConnect A-F Self-Reporting Application beginning in May. **Schools who do not have enough students to be eligible for CCRI points need to check the corresponding box in ADEConnect during the submission window.**

Only schools approved for Fiscal Year 2024 Alternative School status (see the list here) utilize the Alternative CCRI spreadsheet.

Alternative Schools On-Track to Graduate Initial Submission

The school year 2023-2024 (Fiscal Year 2024) Alternative School On-Track to Graduate Initial Submission page will open in February.

Schools must submit data through ADEConnect by navigating to "Accountability" under applications, then clicking on the Alternative Schools On-Track to Graduate (Initial) link. The template and submission instructions are available on ADEConnect after selecting 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 here, under "Guides & FAQ" > "Self-Report Data Guides & Instructions".

The deadline for this initial submission is Tuesday, March 15, 2024, 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

Properly Exiting 12th Graders with 'SC' Year-End Status

Twelfth grade students that finish the school year and **do not graduate** should be withdrawn with the Year-End code 'SC'. Year-End codes 'R' and 'P' are not applicable to 12th grade students, and if used will cause these students to fail integrity in AzEDS. Integrity failures can cause issues with reporting as well as funding. Please ensure that correct Year-End codes and withdrawal codes are being used. Full descriptions of these codes can be found in our Graduation, Dropout, and Persistence Technical Manual.

Guidance from the May Grader:

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.

Pupil Withdrawal Monitoring

Throughout the school year, ADE Accountability will randomly select schools to participate in this year's pupil withdrawal monitoring. Schools from LEAs identified as participating in Title I Programmatic Cycle 4 Monitoring this year are more likely to be selected.

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.

Selected schools can expect the following steps for the monitoring:
- We will notify District and Charter Holders via their District Accountability Coordinators and Superintendents.
- We will establish a contact to work with during the monitoring process.
- We will share materials on the process, including help documents, contacts, and forms to use.
- We will conduct a technical review.
- 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, we will ask schools to meet additional criteria for the following year.

Integrity Error Guide

The Accountability Integrity Errors guide can help schools troubleshoot common integrity errors, such as errors with pupil withdrawals or membership. The document includes error code numbers, descriptions, and troubleshooting suggestions. To view the guide, visit the Pupil Withdrawals page on our website, under "Pupil Withdrawal Resources & Forms", or access the document 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 calculations. To see which students are currently failing integrity, please use the INTEG15 – Student Data Integrity Report on the AzEDS Portal through ADEConnect.

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

Next Grader: May 2024

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.