



ASSESSMENT UPDATES

AUDRA AHUMADA

DEPUTY ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT OF ASSESSMENT

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OVERVIEW

- ✓ Purpose of Statewide Assessments
- ✓ Arizona's Statewide Assessments
- ✓ Resources for Schools, Students and Families



PURPOSE OF STATEWIDE SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS



ALL STATEWIDE SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS

Purpose of **summative assessments** is to inform how well schools are preparing students, how well teachers are teaching the state standards, and how well students are learning

- Are aligned to State Standards
- Follow processes for test development including educator involvement through educator and community review committees, field testing, and operational testing
- Are included as part of federal and state reporting for participation and proficiency
 - A-F Letter Grades
 - Accountability

Summative assessments are only one part of a
Balanced Assessment System

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.



ARIZONA STATEWIDE ASSESSMENTS



ACHIEVEMENT ASSESSMENTS

Arizona's Academic Standards Assessment (AASA) *formerly known as AzM2 or AzMERIT*

- Aligned to current State Academic Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics
- Grades 3-8 (about 80,000 students per grade level)

AZSCI

- Aligned to current State Academic Standards for Science
- Grades 5, 8, and 11 (or Cohort 20XX)

ACT Aspire

- Assesses content in Reading, English, Mathematics, Science, and Writing (Grade 9 or Cohort 20XX)

ACT

- Assesses content in Reading, English, Mathematics, Science, and Writing (Grade 11 or Cohort 20XX)

Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA)

- Aligned to current State Academic Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics and Science Designed for eligible students with the **most significant cognitive disabilities**
- Assesses content in Grades 3-8 and 11 (about 6,800 students)

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP)

- National Indian Education Study will take place this year
- Results for this study are only provided at the National Level – there is not state or tribe specific data
- Last time this study took place was in 2019
- ADE Contact for this is Gary McIlvaine: Gary.McIlvaine@azed.gov

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY ASSESSMENTS (ELP)

AZELLA- Arizona's ELP Assessment

Placement Tests (Kindergarten through Grade 12)

Reassessment Tests (Kindergarten through Grade 12)

These assessments determine if a student has an English Language Acquisition need

Content assessed is aligned to the **2019 English Language Proficiency Standards** - in the Domains of **Reading, Listening, Speaking, and Writing**

Alt ELPA- Arizona's Alternate ELP Assessment for eligible students with significant cognitive disabilities

Reassessment Tests (Kindergarten through Grade 12)

Content assessed is aligned to the **2019 English Language Proficiency Standards and CCSSO's Alternate English Language Proficiency Standards** in the Domains of **Reading, Listening, Speaking, and Writing**



RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS, STUDENTS AND FAMILIES



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 Test Windows

Achievement Assessments

Assessment	Grade(s)	Test Window	
AASA (ELA and Math) **j***j****	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 ****	Grade 9 (Cohort 2027)	Computer-Based Testing: April 1-April 26, 2024	Paper-Based Testing: April 1-April 10, 2024
ACT (with Writing) **j***j****	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 **j***	KPT & Stages II-V	Two weeks before the first instructional day of school through May 10, 2024
AZELLA Spring Reassessment **j***	Stages I-V	January 29-March 15, 2024
Alt ELPA	Eligible students in Grades K-12	January 30-March 15, 2024

Alternate Assessment

Assessment	Grade(s)	Test Window
MSAA – ELA and Math **j***j****	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		

Legend:

*Used in Federal Accountability: Participation (95% Tested) ***Used in State Accountability: Participation/Proficiency/Growth
 ^Used in Federal Accountability: Growth (K-8) ****Used in State Accountability: CCRI, Acceleration Readiness, or Other
 **Used in Federal Accountability: Proficiency/Growth ^^ Used in State Accountability: Growth

Note: Distinctions are subject to change based on State Board determination regarding the State Accountability System.

RESOURCES - INFOGRAPHICS

2023-2024 Arizona's Academic Standards Assessment (AASA)

Test Windows

Comput	Online Apr Online Testing – E Apr
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- ✓ AASA test units are untimed, (ORF) test unit.
- ✓ Grade 3: ELA includes Writing Math includes Math Unit 1 and
- ✓ Grade 3 ORF: ADE will continue administration. ORF will not current Move On When Ready groups in TestNav for both C

2023-2024 Statewide High School Assessments

Test Windows

ACT Aspire	ACT Test Window 1	ACT Test Window 2	AzSCI
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Online Testing:
April 1 – April 26, 2024

Paper Testing (including Special Paper Version tests):
April 1 – April 10, 2024

- ✓ Available online and paper-based
- ✓ Timed test sections: English, Math
- ✓ Test sections may be administered multiple test days.

Online Testing:
April 1 – April 26, 2024

Paper Testing (including Special Paper Version tests):
April 1 – April 10, 2024

- ✓ Available online and paper-based
- ✓ Timed test sections: English, Math
- ✓ Test sections must be administered
- ✓ Testing must be completed in one approved accommodation for testing
- ✓ Schools may utilize both test windows

2023-2024 Arizona's Science Test (AzSCI)

**Test Window:
March 18 – April 12, 2024**

AzSCI – Grades 5, 8, and 11 / Cohort 2025 – Overview

- ✓ Science content aligned to the 2018 Arizona Science Standards (Core Ideas, Science & Engineering Practices, and Crosscutting Concepts)
- ✓ Based on grade bands: Students in Grade 5 will be assessed on standards from Grades 3-5. Students in Grade 8 will be assessed on standards from Grades 6-8.
- ✓ Students in Cohort 2025 will be assessed on high school Essential Standards in physical science, earth and space science, and life science
- ✓ AzSCI test units are untimed.
- ✓ Three test units, estimated 60-90 minutes each

- ✓ Calculator – Grade 5: [Desmos Four-Function](#)
- ✓ Calculator – Grades 8 and 11: [Desmos Scientific](#)
- ✓ AzSCI is an online test only. Any paper tests administered are "Special Paper Version" tests, requiring the student responses to be key-entered in TestNav by a trained Test Administrator by the end of the test window.
- ✓ Cohort 2025 students will take AzSCI regardless of actual grade level or the Science courses they have completed or are enrolled in.
- ✓ Cohort 2025 students will also take ACT in Spring 2024, which includes a Science subtest in addition to the English, Reading, Math, and Writing subtests.

Accessibility

- ✓ Arizona Accommodations Manual (revised August 2022): <https://www.azed.gov/assessment/accessibility>
- ✓ Special Paper Version tests available - Braille, large print, and regular print
- ✓ American Sign Language (ASL) test forms are available.

- ✓ Submit requests for Special Paper Version tests, ASL tests, and Additional Accommodations **September 5, 2023 – February 23, 2024**. Submission request forms and request process quick guides will be published at <https://www.azed.gov/assessment/sci>.

Resources

- ✓ Sample Tests, including for ASL: <https://home.testnav.com/>; Login is not required. Select "Arizona," then select "Mic Check & Sample Tests."
- ✓ Blueprints, Item Specifications, and Performance Level Descriptors: <https://www.azed.gov/assessment/resources>

Contact us for AzSCI: [AzSCI](mailto:AzSCI@azed.gov)

Email: AzSCI@azed.gov ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION Website: <https://www.azed.gov/assessment/sci>

<https://www.azed.gov/assessment> Under the Statewide Assessments Infographics

RESOURCES - SAMPLE TESTS

• <https://home.testnav.com/>

TestNav
Arizona

Username

Password



Sign In

 Test Audio

 [Mic Check & Sample Tests](#)



RESOURCES - SAMPLE TESTS

TestNav

Not Signed In



[Back to Sign in](#)

Arizona Online Sample Tests and Assessment Tutorials

[AASA TestNav Sample Tests](#)

[AzSCI TestNav Sample Tests](#)

[AzSCI and AASA TestNav8 Tutorial](#)

[AZELLA - Microphone Check](#)

[AZELLA - Sample Tests](#)

[AZELLA TestNav8 Tutorial](#)

WHY STATEWIDE TESTING MATTERS



WHY STATEWIDE TESTING PARTICIPATION MATTERS TO STUDENTS

<https://www.azed.gov/sites/default/files/2024/01/Statewide%20Assessment%20Student%20Flyer.pdf>

How Does Taking State Tests Help Me?

- It allows you to show what you've learned and practiced in your school.
- It lets you and your family know if your school is doing a good job supporting your learning.
- It gives you and your family information about how local schools in your community are meeting the needs of all students.
- It tells you and your family about your progress toward completing high school and success after high school, such as attending college and being ready for a career.

How Does Taking State Tests Help My School?

- It provides information to your principal and teachers

Did you know?

The United States passed a law in 2015 that **requires** statewide testing in certain grades and subjects. All students in these grades take state tests.

Not too long ago, some students were **not included** in testing. Back then, students with disabilities and English learners were often excluded.

By requiring that all students take the same test, schools and

- It allows your principal and teachers to see any differences between groups of students and make improvements, so that all students can succeed.
- It helps leaders who make decisions know which schools need more money and help.
- It draws attention if some groups of students do not perform as well as others and allows educators to address the learning needs of these students.

What Can My Family and I Do So I Feel Supported?

- Talk with your family and make sure everyone understands why you are taking a state test.
- Talk with your family and teachers about things that can help you during the test (a seat far from the window where you won't be distracted; repeated directions if you often miss some of the details; using resources and tools that are provided, such as answer masking to remove answers and "scratch paper" to make notes; and creating your own resources, such as a multiplication chart or a graphic organizer).
- Stay positive! Test scores are just one piece of information to use to reach your goals.
- Remember that testing is a regular part of learning and is supposed to help guide learning.
- Practice strategies that help you relax (breathing exercises, stretching, muscle relaxation), and then remember to use them during the test.
- Advocate for yourself to use and have available allowable accommodations and supports.

State tests are focused on testing certain skills, but additional information such as how engaged students are can provide information to help schools improve instruction for all students.

Statewide testing is meant to show how schools are doing. Statewide assessments are a point-in-time measure, and you may have learned more than you are able to show on the test.

Statewide Assessment can provide more information to teachers other than what is being tested, such as which students are using accommodations or tools, or how engaged students are while testing.

Letter Grades are a required component of State Accountability. Other factors may not be directly incorporated in these letter grades as part of what local districts, charters, and schools do to support all students.

SAVE THE DATE

Arizona Assessments Conference – September 17-19, 2024



ARIZONA ASSESSMENTS CONFERENCE

Integrating assessments, standards, and accountability
for student success

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

QUESTIONS?



