Accountability & Research | THE GRADER

May 2025 Edition

May Grader

Dear Arizona Educators,

As we conclude another busy testing season, I want to take a moment to acknowledge and thank you for your incredible dedication and hard work. We understand the planning, coordination, and commitment required at every district and school to ensure testing runs smoothly, creating a positive environment for students to demonstrate their learning

As we transition into accountability season, our focus now shifts to analyzing and utilizing the valuable data generated through these assessments. We hope to support you in interpreting this information to inform instructional strategies, support continuous improvement, and promote student achievement. We recognize the complexities involved and greatly appreciate your professionalism, adaptability, and leadership throughout this critical process.

Please know that our team at the Arizona Department of Education is here to support you every step of the way. We are committed to providing resources, guidance, and clear communication to help you navigate accountability with confidence and clarity. Thank you once again for your unwavering dedication to Arizona's students and schools—we look forward to partnering closely with you in the months ahead.

Sean Smith
Chief Accountability Officer
Arizona Department of Education

How to Reach Us

For the most efficient support, we recommend contacting us via email (achieve@azed.gov) rather than by phone. Email helps us ensure your request is properly documented, enables timely follow-up, and facilitates coordination with the appropriate team members to provide you with the best possible assistance. During accountability season, we experience a high volume of daily requests and prioritize email responses. To ensure urgent requests receive prompt attention, please avoid leaving them as voicemail messages.

Accountability Season is Here

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.
- Update pupil withdrawal codes as necessary.
- Review the student-level reports on ADEConnect for Graduation, Dropout, and Persistency and make any necessary corrections.
  - New columns: IsGrad
- Contact Achieve with questions via email
  - achieve@azed.gov

Public Reports Published

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

- October 1 Enrollment

2024-2025 State Accountability A-F Models

The State Board of Education (SBE) has approved the red-line version of the 2024–2025 A–F Business Rules. In the coming days, we will also publish the final omnibus and model-specific versions under the **Technical Manuals & Codebooks** section on our Resources page: https://www.azed.gov/accountability-research/resources.

Availability of CCRI Spreadsheets

CCRI Applications available in ADEConnect and on the Accountability website.
- We have posted the CCRI Self-Reporting Spreadsheets for both Traditional 9-12 and Alternative 9-12 under the **Guides & FAQ** section on our Resources page on the Accountability and Research site: https://www.azed.gov/accountability-research/resources. The CCRI forms can also be Found in ADEConnect.

The spreadsheet now also includes the National Work Readiness Credential in addition to ACT WorkKeys as an option to for the work readiness credential.

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. This sets the school as ineligible for CCRI points instead of assigning 0 points.

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

> **For Alternative Schools:** This year schools should fill out the spreadsheet as completely as possible for each student (even if it exceeds the 1 full point needed). As we prepare for indicator scoring, we need a complete picture of what students are able to accomplish in preparation for college and career to establish goals for this indicator.

Indicator Scoring

Arizona's A-F Letter Grade School Accountability System is, at heart, a tool for reflection and continuous improvement. Just as schools use the data provided as part of the letter grade system to reflect on what they are doing well and where they need to devote more attention and resources, the State Board A-F Technical Advisory Committees (TAC) meet each month to reflect upon and refine the system.

The purpose of this document is to provide a tool for deep analysis of the current system, which was developed over a number of years and involved hundreds of hours of stakeholder feedback and input. This analysis is triggered by the coming of indicator scoring, as called for in A.R.S. §15-241. In building towards a system to assign letter grades to each primary indicator (proficiency, growth, graduation rate, etc.) in addition to an 3 overall grade, the TACs are examining the current letter grade system for needed revisions. This document is to be viewed as a tool for analysis of the system as of January 2025.

The recommendations in this document do not reflect decisions made by the TACs or the Board. Instead, they are designed to serve as a tool for the TACs to analyze the A-F system as they make any needed improvements.

Please click Here to learn more.

2025 A-F Self-Report Data

The A-F Self Reporting Data applications opened in ADEConnect on May 1st, 2025 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 31st, 2025 at the end of the business day**. After this deadline, schools will no longer be able to submit data for the 2024-2025 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.

2024-2025 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)** –
    - o This file will contain students' demographics, program participation, and FAY status.
    - o 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**.
    - o The June V1 static file will not include AZELLA data.
    - o 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.

Guidance documentation for the static file can be found the Accountability and Research page under Resources-Guides &FAQ: Accountability & Research Resources | 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 <u>as soon as</u>

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, 2025.**

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

Exiting 12th Graders with 'SC' and 'CC' 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.

The CC code can now be used as a year-end code for concurrently enrolled students who are not expected to return to the school. In the coming days, we will also update the Graduation, Dropout, and Persistence Technical Manual.

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.

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.

TILC Conference

Ignite, Engage, and Achieve with Arizona's dedicated educators, including teachers, administrators, and other professionals for a transformative experience of learning and growing! Immerse yourself in a three-day conference in the beautiful city of Glendale, Arizona, featuring inspiring keynote speakers and a rich array of sessions. All sessions are delivered by experienced educators, administrators, and field experts, setting the standards from birth to career. This event provides a unique opportunity to collaborate, connect, learn, and grow. Explore diverse topics including technology in education, academic standards, effective leadership, assessments, evidence-based practices, and much more. The Teachers Institute and Leading Change Conference will empower you to expand your horizons and thrive this summer and beyond!

Breakfast, lunch, and light snacks are included in your conference registration!

Early Childhood Education (Birth to 5), Elementary Education (K-5), Secondary Educators (6-12), K-12 Educators, Administrators, School/District Instructional Leaders, Other School/District Support Staff. For further information please click: Here

3 Ds to an F

Under Arizona Revised Statutes § 15-241.02(D), schools that receive a letter grade of D for three consecutive years will be assigned a letter grade of F. This policy ensures that schools with persistent low performance are identified and provided with targeted support to improve. The Arizona Department of Education will confirm the classification data and review the implementation of the school's improvement plan. This process is crucial for maintaining accountability and fostering educational excellence across the state

Graduation for Students with Disabilities

The Arizona Department of Education's Graduation/Withdrawal manual clarifies that completion of an Individualized Education Program (IEP) does not substitute for meeting graduation requirements. This ensures that all students, including those with disabilities, meet the necessary criteria to graduate. The manual provides detailed guidance on the graduation process and requirements, ensuring clarity and consistency across all schools. Additionally, appeals are available for students who have not graduated, offering them an opportunity to present their case and seek reconsideration of their graduation status.

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	10/31/2024 - 01/18/2025
Alternative Schools Application for fiscal year 2026	02/10/2025 - 03/31/2025
Initial On-Track to Graduate Submission	02/10/2025 - 03/15/2025

Submit CCRI Self-Reported Data	05/10/2025 - 07/31/2025
Submit Credits Earned Self-Reported Data	05/10/2025 - 07/31/2025
Final On-Track to Graduate Submission	05/10/2025 - 07/30/2025
Correct Test Records in ADE Connect	05/15/2025 - 06/30/2025
Validate Graduation Data for fiscal year 2024 graduates	05/25/2025 - 07/01/2025
DRP Application for fiscal year 2024	05/15/2025 - 06/30/2025
Static File V1 Validation	06/20/2025 - 07/15/2025
Static File V2 Validation	08/20/2025 - 09/15/2025
Cut score Presentation	Sept 2025 Board Meeting
Cut Score Approval	Oct 2025 Board Meeting
A-F Public File release on State Board of Education's website	11/01/2025
A-F Appeals Window	11/01/2025 - 11/15/2025
Tentative meeting of A-F Appeals Committee	11/20/2025

District Accountability Coordinator Form

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 related to Accountability. As we implement training videos and updates to our resources, we will notify District Accountability Coordinators.

If you have not yet completed the District Accountability Coordinator form, please do so: Here

Next Grader: August 2025

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.