State of Arizona
Department of Education
Exceptional Student Services

Hot Topic

November 2, 2026

State Testing Obligations for District of Residence and District of Attendance

The Arizona Department of Education (ADE), Exceptional Student Services (ESS), and Assessment are providing this joint Hot Topic as a reminder of all public education agencies' (PEAs') responsibility to ensure all students, including students with disabilities who may be placed outside of the district or charter, participate in required state assessments.[1]

For students enrolled in a district or charter (District of Residence/DOR) who attend school at another local education agency (LEA), approved private day school, or residential treatment facility (District of Attendance/DOA), assessment responsibilities may vary based on the type of placement. The tables below outline the respective responsibilities of the DOR and DOA regarding statewide assessments.

It is important to remember all students with disabilities must be included in state and district assessments, with appropriate accommodations and alternate assessments provided, when necessary, as documented in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP).[2] PEAs are encouraged to review local policies and procedures to ensure these requirements are addressed consistently.

Additionally, IEP teams should consider and document appropriate testing accommodations for all students with disabilities participating in statewide and district assessments.[3]

[1] 20 U.S.C. § 6311(b)(2); 20 U.S.C. § 1412(a)(16); A.R.S. § 15-755

[2] 20 U.S.C. § 1412(a)(16); A.R.S. § 15-755

[3] 20 U.S.C. § 1414(d)(1)(A)(i)(VI)

Additional information regarding assessment administration is available on the District Test Coordinator website. For questions regarding assessment requirements, please contact testing at testing@azed.gov. For questions regarding assessment-related documentation in a student's IEP, please contact your assigned Program Support and Monitoring (PSM) Specialist.

Table 1 summarizes the testing process for students participating in AASA, AzSCI, ACT Aspire, ACT, and AZELLA.

Table 1: Process for Achievement and AZELLA Assessments

District of Residence (DOR)	District of Attendance (DOA)
Ensure the student records are accurately reflected in AzEDS.	Notify the DOR if student records are missing or incomplete.
Decide with the DOA who will administer the assessment. Test Administrators should be familiar to students.	Decide with the DOR who will administer assessments. Test Administrators should be familiar to students.
If the DOR administers assessments	**If the DOA administers assessments**
Ensure a District Test Coordinator has been assigned and has submitted the Test Security Agreement. Complete District Test Coordinator and Test Administrator training and submit any accommodations request as applicable. Coordinate testing sessions with the DOA.	Ensure a District Test Coordinator has been assigned and has submitted the Test Security Agreement. Complete District Test Coordinator and Test Administrator training and submit any accommodations request as applicable. Create a testing schedule.
Communicate with the DOA to schedule additional testing sessions and to confirm testing completion.	Administer the tests to all participating students who are testing at the site and communicate progress with the DOR.
Download the Individual Student Reports and share results with the DOA.	Download the Individual Student Reports and share results with the DOR.

Table 2 summarizes testing requirements for students participating in the state alternate assessments: MSAA and Alt ELPA.

NOTE: All students participating in alternate assessment must test at the DOA.

Table 2: Requirements for Alternate Assessments

District of Residence (DOR)	District of Attendance (DOA)
Ensure the student records are accurately reflected in AzEDS (verify current enrollment, special education program, special education need, and passing integrity using the SPED10 and SPED72 reports for confirmation).	Notify the DOR if the student records are missing or incomplete.
Notify the Alternate Assessment Team if there are issues with a student's records that will not be resolved before the close of the Student Selector Application.	Identify students in the Student Selector Application.
Monitor the testing progress for MSAA and Alt ELPA by contacting the Alternate Assessment District Test Coordinator at the DOA.	Administer MSAA and Alt ELPA to all participating students and communicate progress with the DOR.
Work with the DOA to obtain the MSAA and Alt ELPA results.	Download the student reports and share results with the DOR.