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Changes to Grader Bulletin

In an effort to provide information and updates at the most timely points in the year, the Accountability Unit will be changing the release of the Grader Bulletin to 3 times per year: May, August, and December.

In the Grader, we'll send out the wide-angle picture of Accountability Information; we'll also send more frequent reminders of important tasks through the Grader email distribution list and post them on the Accountability Page. To ensure you are up to date with all of Accountability's changes, please email Achieve@azed.gov to be added to our distribution list.

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Twelfth-grade students that finish the school year and **do not graduate** should be withdrawn with the Year-End code 'SC'.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](#).

Pupil Withdrawal Monitoring

Throughout the school year, schools will be randomly selected to participate in this year's pupil withdrawal monitoring. Schools from LEAs identified as participating this year in Title I Programmatic Cycle 4 Monitoring are more likely to be selected. The first round of Superintendents/Charter Holders and federal program personnel (where applicable) will be notified after February 15th. Future schools will be notified each month.

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.

Schools that are selected can expect the following steps for the monitoring:

- We will notify District and Charter Holders via their federal program personnel and Superintendents.
- We will establish a contact with whom to work during the monitoring process.
- We will share materials on the process, including help documents, contacts, and forms to be used.
- 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.

Self-Reported Data Monitoring

We will be conducting a basic monitoring of Self-Report spreadsheets used for A-F Letter Grades components. This includes College and Career Readiness Indicator (CCRI) for Traditional and Alternative schools, as well as Credits Earned and On-Track to Graduate for Alternative schools. A small sample of Traditional 9-12 schools will be selected at random to provide their completed CCRI spreadsheet from the 2021-2022 school year. Additionally, a small sample of Alternative 9-12 schools will be selected at random to provide their completed 2021-2022 school year spreadsheet for CCRI, Credits Earned, and/or On-Track to Graduate. The person who submitted the points for 2021-2022 school year (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.

Schools that are selected for Self-Report Data Monitoring will be notified in February.

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, 2023, and close on March 31, 2023. The following information will be required in the application:

- **The mission statement as of October 1, 2022 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 the 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, 2022
- 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](#) and in [Arizona Revised Statute 15-796](#). Please keep in mind that schools must apply each year to be considered for alternative school status even if they have been previously approved.

Timeline

Below are important dates and deadlines for Accountability. Please check [The Examiner](#) (The Assessment Unit's Bulletin) for the most up to date information on assessments.

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| <p>February 2023</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing Pupil Withdrawal Monitoring • Ongoing A-F Self-Report Monitoring • 2/14 Alternative School application window |
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