

An ADE Newsletter for Test Coordinators

August 2016



The Examiner

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Irene Hunting, Deputy Associate Superintendent

Achievement Tests

Summer 2016 AzMERIT EOC - Test Results

Results for the Summer AzMERIT EOC test administration are now available in ORS. Paper reports will be delivered August 24-25, 2016. There will be two separate shipments; one for student reports and one for the reporting guides.

Fall 2016 AzMERIT EOC

Students on track to complete any one-credit course aligned to one of the first three required years of high school English credit or aligned to one of the first three required years of high school math credit by the end of December 2016 should take the corresponding AzMERIT EOC test(s) during the Fall 2016 AzMERIT EOC test administration. Questions about which students should participate in Fall 2016 AzMERIT EOC testing should be emailed to

AzMERIT@azed.gov.

Pre-Test Trainings for District Test Coordinators

Fall 2016 Pre-Test Trainings will be available online September 19 - 30. District Test Coordinators with schools participating in the Fall 2016 AzMERIT administration must complete the training no later than September 30. To access the Pre-Test Training click [here](#).

Test Windows - CBT Test Only

Writing Test - October 24 - November 18

Reading and Math Test - October 24 - December 2

The Fall 2016 EOC District Test Coordinator Important Tasks Checklist is available on the ADE Test Coordinator website [here](#) and the AzMERIT portal [here](#). This list should be printed and saved for future use.

The Examiner is published electronically every August, November, February, and May for distribution to test coordinators in Arizona schools. Test Coordinators are responsible for disseminating information in the *The Examiner* as appropriate. *The Examiner* is located electronically at <http://www.azed.gov/assessment/examiner/>.

Fall 2016 AzMERIT EOC - continued**Uploading Users into TIDE**

TIDE opens on October 6 for Fall 2016 testing. District Test Coordinators will receive an email on October 6, 2016 with their new password for TIDE. All other users in TIDE will keep their password from Spring 2016. District Test Coordinators must review the list of TIDE users for their district and schools, deleting, revising, and adding users as needed so that all TIDE users have appropriate access. The *TIDE User Guide*, which includes detailed information about deleting, revising, and adding users in TIDE, and a short demonstration video is available on the portal.

Special Paper Version Tests as an Accommodation

Special paper version tests include Braille, Large Print, and regular size tests. Special paper version tests will be provided for students who cannot use a computer for any instructional purposes because of specific needs based on an IEP.

New for Fall 2016, students using a special paper version test will have the same test window as CBT testing. All students using a special paper version test must have their responses hand entered into AIR's Data Entry Interface (DEI) by a qualified test administrator by the close of each of the test windows listed above. Instructions for using the DEI will be provided in the *Special Paper Version Test Administration Directions* provided with these tests. Special paper version tests will be returned as nonscorable materials.

All Special Paper Version tests must be requested during the Additional Order Window October 6 through November 3. ADE will verify and approve all Special Version Requests. Prior to placing an additional order, all students that will require a special paper version test must have an indication in TIDE. These students identified in TIDE will not have access to the CBT test.

Spring 2017 AzMERIT Testing**Completing School Year 2016-2017 Tech Readiness Reports**

The Technology Readiness Tool (Tech Readiness application in ADEConnect) will be open for updates from September 27, 2016 through October 11, 2016. **All schools that tested PBT in Spring 2016 are required to update their Tech Readiness report and indicate the Spring 2017 mode of testing by October 11, 2016.** Schools that tested CBT in Spring 2016 do not need to update their Tech Readiness Report.

District Test Coordinators should have the user role of "Achievement District Test Coordinator" in ADEConnect. With this user role, you will have access to the Tech Readiness application within ADEConnect. If you do not have access to ADEConnect or the Tech Readiness application, contact your district's ADEConnect LEA Entity Administrator.

To update a Spring 2016 PBT school's inventory and other technology information, go to the Tech Readiness Inventory page within the Tech Readiness application. Make changes as needed and enter the estimated student count for AzMERIT testing. Save the page. Then, view the Tech Readiness Results page and make a selection for testing mode (PBT or CBT).

Spring 2017 AzMERIT Testing - continued**AzEDS Enrollments and Spring 2017 TIDE**

For Spring 2017, ADE will extract both Grades 3-8 and EOC enrollments from AzEDS for preregistration in TIDE. Student Teacher Course connection will not be used for Spring 2017 EOC student data extracts. All schools that have students who will need to be tested on the EOC must check with their Student Information/Management System vendor to verify that their system has been updated to include the AzMERIT EOC testing indicators.

Spring 2017 AzMERIT Testing Window**Test Windows - CBT Test Only**

Writing Test - March 27 - April 21

Grade 3 Reading and Math Test - March 27 - April 28*

Reading and Math Test (except Grade 3) - March 27 - May 4**

*Grade 3 test window closes one week early to allow for an earlier return of Grade 3 results.

**The last day of CBT testing is now a Thursday rather than a Friday.

Test Windows - PBT Test Only

Writing Test - March 27 or March 28

Reading and Math Test - March 27 - April 7

For both PBT and CBT, ADE will no longer require that one session of the Reading and Math Tests for Grades 3 - 8 be administered on the same day.

Spring 2017 AzMERIT Reporting Timeline

Grade 3 results will be available online on Thursday, May 11, 2017.

Grade 3 paper reports will be delivered to districts by Wednesday, May 24, 2017.

All other AzMERIT results will be available online no later than Friday, May 26, 2017.

All other AzMERIT paper reports will be delivered to districts by Friday, June 23, 2017.

Spring 2017 AIMS Science Test Window

March 13 - April 21 - Grades 4, 8, and HS.

Prepare for the Upcoming Year: Test Coordinator Responsibilities

	Online Trainings	Identify Eligible Students in Student Selector Application	Testing Materials Delivered	Testing Window	Reporting Portal
AIMS-A	Nov - Dec 2016	October 4 - November 17, 2016 *more information coming soon	Feb 1 - 14, 2017	Feb 15 - Mar 31, 2017	June 2017
MSAA	TBD			March 30 - May 12, 2017	Aug/Sept 2017

Look for emails and a webinar (September 2016) that will provide more details about new changes for Alternate Assessment!

Eligibility Decisions

- Assessment determinations/eligibility decisions are made *annually* for students. Last year a very large number of students were added at the last minute to the AIMS A Science and MSAA system. Participation and Eligibility decisions for these students should be made early in the school year. Students with significant cognitive disabilities should not just be newly qualifying for Alternate Assessments unless the student is new to special education or your district. Eligible students participate in AIMS A Science (**Grades 4, 8, and 10 only**) and MSAA ELA and Math (**Grades 3 through 8 and 11th grade**).
- Combined Alternate Assessment Eligibility can be found here: <http://www.azed.gov/assessment/files/2014/11/alternate-assessment-eligibility-combined-2016.pdf>

New Law - Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA): 1% Cap Changes

- ESSA will be in full effect for the 2017-18 school year including one significant change for Alternate Assessment. In the past, NCLB allowed LEAs to *count as proficient on the state's alternate assessment up to 1%* of the students who participated in state assessments with no limit on the number of students allowed to participate in the state's alternate assessment. ESSA allows *states to administer the alternate assessment to no more than 1%* of the students who participate in statewide testing. Under current proposed regulations, states expecting to exceed this 1% cap must request a waiver least 90 days before the first day of the test window.
- Earlier Identification of eligible students will be critical as the new ESSA Requirements for 1% Cap are implemented.
 - NEW for this year, LEAs will be required to identify ALL eligible students during the new window, October 4 through November 17, 2016. **If students are not identified in the Student Application in ADEConnect, then they will not be able to be added at a later date.**

Accommodation Decisions

- Please remember to include appropriate instructional and testing accommodations as you conduct IEP meetings (**scribe/transcription, paper versions for MSAA**). **Note: A paper version/administration of the MSAA is an accommodation and must be documented in the student's IEP.**



AIMS A Science

Alternate Assessment Test Coordinators and ADEConnect

- Alternate Assessment applications will continue to be accessed through ADEConnect.
 - ♦ All entities are responsible for adding and assigning the Alternate Assessment applications for Test Coordinators and Test Administrators/Teachers.
 - ♦ Test Administrators who left your district and will not be returning next school year or administering AIMS A Science, please contact your District ADEConnect Entity Administrator to remove the ADEConnect assigned role(s) as stated in Page #18 of the [ADEConnect Entity Administrator Guide](#). *This must be completed as soon as possible.*
 - ♦ **TCs should submit an up-to-date list of all Test Administrators for AIMS A Science to both the ADE's Alternate Assessment Unit and your District Entity Administrator as soon as possible.** This will also act as confirmation of your district TAs to ADE Alternate Assessment Unit.
- This process will ensure that only those individuals that will be overseeing or administering the AIMS A Science Alternate Assessment will have access to the application through ADEConnect.
- **This will replace the procedure of submitting Username and Passwords for Common Logon. The TC will no longer be required to submit Common Logon Usernames and Password requests.** For more information on ADEConnect, please contact: <http://www.azed.gov/aelas/adeconnect/>.

AIMS A Science Results

If you did not download the 2015-2016 AIMS A Science results, please call our office as soon as possible.

MSAA

Scoring

- The 2016 scoring process is completed. The MSAA Reporting Portal is scheduled to open August 19, 2016 and remain open through September 16, 2016. *Look for an email with additional details and instructions soon!*
- Only TCs will have access to the MSAA reporting portal.
- ADE will be sending hard copies of the MSAA student reports to LEAs
- There will not be any feedback or information on student's writing performance for the 2015-2016 school year on the student report. The state will be provided information that will be shared at a later date!

Current Enhancements

- There have been many revisions to the MSAA process, field test items, and *Directions for Test Administration* based on the feedback from educators. Thank you for sharing!

Exceeding the 1% Cap for 2015-2016

- The 1% Cap process will remain the same for this final year. The notification and process will not occur until early fall 2016. An email notification to the Test Coordinator will be sent by the Alternate Assessment Director if the LEA has exceeded the 1% Cap for the 2015 – 2016 MSAA Administration for ELA and math only. The Alternate Assessment Test Coordinator will then have an opportunity to submit an appeal.

External Customer Satisfaction Survey

Based on survey results for Alternate Assessments, we will be working toward two goals:

1. Improving Communication - look for updates in the *The Examiner*, email Notifications or Alerts, and the Alternate Assessment Webpages.
2. Improved Overall Satisfaction - look for new enhancements to MSAA, Student Selector Application and providing correct and timely information to Test Coordinators and Test Administrators.

Other Notes

- Look for updates and highlights of key areas at the 2016 Director's Institute-Alternate Assessment Session in the fall.
- Don't forget to share this information with your teachers!



Changes to AZELLA Program

The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) has recently reviewed the entire AZELLA program to confirm that we are best meeting the needs of English Language Learners (ELLs).

Changes Related to the Kindergarten Placement Test

Letters were sent to AZELLA Test Coordinators in March and May 2016 with specific required actions. Here is a summary of the actions taken based on those letters and next steps:

- Of the 6,743 Kindergarten and Grade 1 students included in the “Grade Level Performance Survey” application, 2,036 were **not** identified as performing at/above grade level. These 2,036 students, who are now entering Grade 1 or 2, require an AZELLA Placement Test.
- Of the 1,613 Grade 2 students who were included in the Newly Reclassified ELL-Parent Withdrawal Students Report application, 495 scored **below** “Proficient” on an AZELLA test administered at the end of the school year. ELL services must be offered to these students, who are now entering Grade 3, at the start of the school year. Another 59 students, who were not tested, require an AZELLA Placement Test.
- Of the 1,881 Grade 3 students who were reclassified as ELL-Parent Withdrawal students, 1,482 scored **below** “Proficient” on the AzMERIT ELA test. These students, who are now entering Grade 4, require an AZELLA Placement Test.

To help you identify the students listed above as requiring an AZELLA Placement Test, the **SDELL73 Report** has a new ELL Group identifier, **ELL Group 7**. Students with the ELL Group 7 identifier must be administered an AZELLA Placement Test **within the first 2 weeks of school year 2016-2017**. The SDELL73 Report is updated nightly based on AzEDS enrollment data uploaded by schools and districts.

Changes Related to Stages III-V

Over the summer, ADE established new “Proficient” cut scores for AZELLA Stages III-V. These higher cut scores are in place for school year 2016-2017 Placement Testing and will be in place for Spring 2017 Reassessment. Schools can expect to see their AZELLA Stages III-V pass rate drop about 15-20 percentage points.

The new, higher cut scores are also being applied retroactively to school years 2012-2013 through 2015-2016. Students, who passed AZELLA with a score that is no longer considered “Proficient” and who are **not** performing comparably to their English-only peers, must be offered English language services. ADE has developed the **Stages III-V Performance Survey** application, listed under the AZELLA Corrections/SDELL Reports link on ADEConnect, to identify the students who require additional English language services and the additional services accepted by the student’s parent(s). This survey should be completed before school, if at all possible, but no later than 21 days after the start of the school year for continuing students. For students new to the school, the survey must be completed by the 9th week of school or by the student’s 4th week of school whichever comes later. The Stages III-V Performance Survey is updated nightly based on AzEDS enrollment data uploaded by schools and districts.

For more detailed information about all these changes please refer to the [letter dated June 29, 2016](#), and the 2016-2017 Placement Test Training – Session 4.



AZELLA Placement Testing

To help organize all the various tasks needed to administer AZELLA Placement tests, we created the [AZELLA District Test Coordinator's To-Do List \(June – September 2016\)](#).

AZELLA Placement Test reports will be produced based on the cycle dates shown below. Student results will not be reported until the student's SSID (SAIS ID) is entered in *PearsonAccess* (unless the student is tested at a BIE or private school).

Cycle	Last Key Entry Date	Electronic Results Posted	Paper Reports Due
1	8/05/2016	8/25/2016	9/06/2016
2	8/19/2016	9/08/2016	9/15/2016
3	9/02/2016	9/22/2016	9/29/2016
4	9/16/2016	10/06/2016	10/13/2016
5	10/14/2016	11/03/2016	11/10/2016
6	11/18/2016	12/08/2016	12/15/2016
7	12/16/2016	1/05/2017	1/12/2017
8	1/27/2017	2/16/2017	2/23/2017
9	2/24/2017	3/09/2017	3/16/2017
10	3/24/2017	4/13/2017	4/20/2017
11	4/21/2017	5/11/2017	5/18/2017
12	5/19/2017	6/08/2017	6/15/2017

Spring 2017 AZELLA Reassessment

Training for the Spring 2017 AZELLA Reassessment Test will be offered for AZELLA District Test Coordinators in November 2016. The Spring 2017 AZELLA Reassessment testing window is scheduled for February 6 through March 24, 2017.

AZELLA Stages III-V Computer-Based Testing - Coming Spring 2018

AZELLA Stages III-V is moving to computer-based testing beginning with the **Spring 2018 AZELLA Reassessment** and then school year 2018-2019 Placement Testing. AZELLA Testing for Kindergarten, Grades 1 and 2 will remain paper-based.

Based on the volume of computer-based AzMERIT testing, we expect the capacity exists to easily move to computer-based testing for AZELLA. In Spring 2016 nearly 70% of schools and nearly 70% of students tested participated in computer-based AzMERIT, MSAA, or AIMS A Science testing. Nearly half a million students participated in computer-based testing.

A relatively small number of students participate in AZELLA Stages III-V testing. Statewide, we administer about 20,000 Stages III-V Placement tests per year. Most schools administer at least 1 Stages III-V Placement test. The vast majority of those schools administer fewer than 10 Stage III, 10 Stage IV, and/or 20 Stage V Placement tests. Statewide, we administer about 40,000 Stages III-V Reassessment tests per year. Most school sites administer at least 1 Stages III-V Reassessment test. The vast majority of those schools administer fewer than 25 Reassessment tests per Stage. The majority of students who participate in AZELLA Stages III-V testing also participate in computer-based AzMERIT testing.

Preparing for AZELLA Computer-Based Testing

The Assessment Section will host another breakout session on computer-based testing at the September 2016 PELL meeting. Topics for that breakout session include:

- Changes to AZELLA Stages III-V tests to move online.
- What do we already know about how to test online?
- Technology preparedness for Grades 3-12 students.
- Technology requirements for administration of the test.

Emailing AZELLA Team

When emailing AZELLA@azed.gov, please:

- Use a meaningful subject line that includes your district name.
- Include full contact information in your signature line or elsewhere in the email.
- Include the student's SSID (SAIS ID) number, if your question is in regard to a specific student. For FERPA and student privacy reasons, please do not include the student's name and birthdate when providing ADE with the SSID.

The AZELLA Team strives to respond to emails within one business day unless further research is needed.

OELAS Updates

A one-day **ELL Coordinator Boot Camp**, for ELL Coordinators and AZELLA District Test Coordinators with less than two years of experience, is scheduled for Thursday, September 8, 2016. A **Practitioners of English Language Learning (PELL)** meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 9, 2016. Registration is \$75.00 for each meeting and includes breakfast, snacks, and lunch. Both meetings will be held at the Black Canyon Conference Center in Phoenix.

To register for ELL Coordinator Boot Camp: <https://ems.azed.gov/home/Calendar?sd=1850>

To register for PELL: <https://ems.azed.gov/home/Calendar?sd=1851>

Save the Date: 2016 OELAS Conference – Cultivating Language for Life

The 2016 OELAS Conference will take place December 7-9, 2016, at the JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort in Tucson, Arizona. Registration for this event is \$395 per person and will open August 17, 2016. For more information about this event, please go to <http://www.azed.gov/oelasconf>.

2016 Arizona ELL Teacher of the Year and 2016 Arizona ELL Student Success Stories

This year's awardees will be honored at a banquet on Wednesday, December 7, 2016, as part of the 2016 OELAS Conference at the JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort in Tucson, Arizona. Nomination forms are available at <http://www.azed.gov/oelasconf>.

Nominations for the **2016 Arizona ELL Teacher of the Year** are due to OELAS by **August 19, 2016**.

Nominations for the **2016 Arizona ELL Student Success Stories** are due to OELAS by **October 5, 2016**.

NAEP and International Assessments

NAEP 2017 Participating Schools

Assessment Window: January 30 - March 10, 2017

- Participation letters with assessment dates were sent out June 20 to principals and Districts/Charters Test Coordinators.
- Please email any assessment date change request to NAEP@azed.gov by August 30.
- Principal mailing with the School Coordinator Packet and www.MyNAEP.com registration information will go out in mid-August.
- Principals to designate a NAEP School Coordinator and give them the School Coordinator Packet by 8/26/16.
- School Coordinator registers on www.MyNAEP.com by 9/2/2016.
- Invitations sent out mid-September to all registered NAEP School Coordinators for the *Overview NAEP 2017 MyNAEP Training Module*

International Assessment Pilots 2017

Assessment Window: March to May 2017 (specific dates TBD)
(A very small sample of schools nationwide. Arizona may or may not be included)

Recent NAEP Results Releases

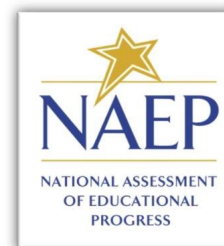
NAEP 2014 Technology and Engineering Literacy Assessment released May 2016.

- National level results only although several Arizona schools participated.
- Please find the complete online results at www.nationsreportcard.gov/tel_2014/

Upcoming NAEP Results Releases

Look for an email invitation to a simulcast press web conference as soon as details are completed.

- **NAEP 2015 Science** results are scheduled to be released in the fall and an invitation to the press conference webinar will be emailed one week prior to the release.
- **NAEP 2015 National Indian Education Study (NIES)** results TBD (perhaps this fall)
- All releases will be posted to the NAEP page <http://www.azed.gov/assessment/naep/>



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If you have any questions regarding NAEP, please contact Shelly Pollnow, Ed.D., Director of the NAEP Program and International Assessments for Arizona at phone: 602.542.5031 or email: NAEP@azed.gov