



An ADE Newsletter for Test Coordinators

The Examiner



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May 2018 Edition

Deputy Associate Superintendent of Assessment



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We have completed another testing season! I want to acknowledge all District Test Coordinators for all the work and support you provide to ensure successful test administrations.

This year the Assessment Unit administered two assessments online for the first time. While we did experience a few growing pains, we want you to know we will continue to make improvements to the testing programs. We are gathering feedback through the end-of-the-year surveys and focus groups that will assist the Assessment Team in prioritizing the improvements. In this edition, you will find valuable information regarding reporting and 2018-2019 test dates.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us and hope you all have a great summer!

Audra Ahumada

Save the Dates!



Teachers' Institute - June 4-5, 2018 - www.azed.gov/teachers-institute/



Leading Change - June 6-8, 2018 - www.azed.gov/leadingchange/



AzMERIT

Spring 2018 Score Reports

User roles of DTC and DA in TIDE will have access to all the district and school reports in Online Reporting System (ORS) when they are available. If you are the District Test Coordinator and you will not be available when the reports are posted, you may add new users now with a DA role in TIDE.

Grade 3

- Tuesday, May 15 – Online reports, (including student data files), will be available in ORS.
- Friday, May 25 – Paper copies of the Individual Student Reports will be delivered to districts.

Grade 4 – 8 & EOC

- Friday, May 25 – Online reports, (including student data files), will be available in ORS.
- Wednesday, June 20 – Paper copies of the Individual Student Reports will be delivered to districts.
- Last day to report corrections to AIR is June 29.

Individual student reports should be sent to parents when they are received. Spanish Individual Student Reports are available for download in ORS.

The new Student Data File Layout (revised 12/17) for student data files that reflects the change of fields is posted on the [AzMERIT Portal](#). When uploading to your Student Manage Systems, this new layout must be used.

Repeat: Writing Scoring

To provide schools with greater information regarding student writing responses, we will be providing the following codes in the Student Data File:

Code	Meaning
A	Blank; no response written.
CM	Prompt Copy Match - student response is substantially copied from the prompt or passage with less than 30% original text.
DT	Duplicate text - student text is substantially comprised of repeated text copied over and over.
NE	Not enough data - student response is less than 11 words.
NS	Non-Specific - writing is illegible; written in a language other than English; writing is not related to topic; student responds that he or she refuses to answer the task; student responds that he or she does not understand the task.
INC	Incomplete - student did not respond to at least one item in one or more test sessions.
INV	Invalidated.

Summer 2018 EOC Testing

Session 1	CBT only	June 4 – June 28
Session 2	CBT only (Writing must be completed by July 27)	July 9 – August 2

Students must complete the entire test within a single summer session.

District Test Coordinators who completed the Pre-Test Training for Spring 2018 will not be required to complete another training for summer administration. The [Pre-Test Trainings](#) are still available online.

District Test Coordinators are responsible to:

- Train any test administrators who did not previously administer AzMERIT during the school year 2017-2018,
- Verify that a current security agreement is on file for all test administrators,
- Monitor summer test administration.

Any new test administrators must be added to TIDE and must complete the Test Administrator Certification Course available on the AzMERIT portal. Test Administrators that have completed the Certification Course for Spring 2018 will remain certified throughout the summer.

Students who are on track to complete, during the summer semester, a one credit course aligned to one of the first three years of English credits or one of the first three years of mathematics credits required for high school graduation, should participate in the appropriate AzMERIT EOC test(s) during the Summer 2018 test window.

Technology Reminder:

After Summer 2019, the following three systems for testing will no longer be supported:

Supported Operating System	Anticipated End-of-Support Date
Windows 7	End of 2018–2019 School Year
Windows Server 2008 RT	End of 2018–2019 School Year
Linux Ubuntu 14.04 LTS (Gnome)	End of 2018–2019 School Year

Chromebooks Manufactured in 2017 or later

Due to recent changes by Google, users with Chromebooks manufactured in 2017 or later who do not have an Enterprise or Education license **will not** be able to use those machines for assessments. Google no longer allows users without these licenses to set up kiosk mode, which is necessary to run the AIR Secure Browser.

This change restricting kiosk mode does not affect the Chrome operating system. You can still use any version of Chrome OS on hardware manufactured in 2016 or earlier.

AIMS Science

Spring 2018 Score Reports

User role of DTC will have access to all district and school reports in PearsonAccess^{next} (PAN). If you are the District Test Coordinator and you will not be available when the reports are posted, you may add users in PAN now with the STC role to have access to the individual school reports.

Grades 4, 8, and High School

- Friday, May 25 – Online reports, (including student data files) will be available in PAN.
- Wednesday, June 6 – Paper copies of the Individual Student Reports will be delivered to districts.
- Last day to report corrections to Pearson is June 29.

Student score reports will be returned to schools based on where the student was in PearsonAccess^{next} on the last day of the test window.

2018-2019 Achievement Testing Windows

Fall 2018 AzMERIT EOC Testing (CBT only)

- November 5 – November 30, 2018
- Writing must be completed by November 16

Spring 2019 AzMERIT and AIMS Science Test Administration Dates

	AzMERIT	AIMS Science
Paper-Based Testing	April 1 – April 10	---
Computer-Based Testing	April 1 – April 26 (Writing must be completed by April 12)	March 25 – April 19
Reporting Dates	May 15 – Grade 3 May 24 – Grades 4 – 8 & EOC	May 25

Achievement Tests Survey

The ADE Assessment Section is seeking your feedback on the Spring 2018 AzMERIT test administration. This survey is intended for District Test Coordinators only (please do not forward this link). This survey will close at noon on Friday, May 11. Please click [here](#) to access the survey.

Test Coordinator Information Form and Test Security Agreement

All district/charters are asked to submit the *District Test Coordinator Information Form – School Years 2018-2019* form by **May 25, 2018**. This form requires the names and contact information for each of the Achievement Testing, Alternate Assessment, and AZELLA District Test Coordinators.

The *Superintendent/Charter Representative Test Security Agreement* must be signed by the Superintendent/Charter Representative and each of the designated District Test Coordinators prior to the start of any 2018-2019 state assessments.

These forms can be found on the ADE [District Test Coordinators](#) website.

If you have any questions regarding AzMERIT, please email AzMERIT@azed.gov.

If you have any questions regarding AIMS Science, please email AIMSScience@azed.gov.



AIMS A Science

Congratulations on completing the 2018 AIMS A Science administration!

“Thank You” for your patience and communication with the Alternative Assessment Unit. While there were a few unexpected issues, most experienced a smooth administration. As we continue to explore opportunities to improve our systems, we anticipate even more success in our administration next year.

For those that have not done so already, please remember to do the following by May 15, 2018

- Complete inventory form
- Package the AIMS A test materials
- Return them to ADE with the provided return service label (through Fed-Ex email)
- If you have any questions about returning the AIMS A test materials, please contact us at 602.542.8239.

Reports

The AIMS A Science student reports have been shipped to the Alternate Assessment Test Coordinator. When these hard copies are received, one copy is to be distributed to parents/guardians and the other is to be placed in the student's cumulative file.

The AIMS A Science reporting portal will be open May 7, 2018 - June 29, 2018. Alternate Assessment TCs must download and securely save the District Demographics Report, School Roster Report, Data File, and Student Reports from the AIMS A Science system through ADEConnect during this window.

MSAA

MSAA Test Administration - Final Preparations

Instructions for the final steps to administer MSAA were e-mailed recently. Please monitor to assure that all students have completed testing (ELA and math) by May 4, 2018. All tests must display a final status using one of the following: **Submitted**, **Closed**, or **Not Started**. Once the testing window closes, there will be no access to the MSAA system. There are no extensions to complete testing!

The test window for MSAA will close at 5:00pm (MST) on Friday, May 4, 2018.

MSAA End of Test Survey (EOTS)

TAs are required to complete one EOTS survey. The TA will complete this through the Actions Button for one student; however, the survey allows for opportunities to provide feedback on multiple students through one survey. The MSAA EOTS does not impact the submission of the students' tests. The information collected from these surveys will provide valuable information for future administrations as well as allow TAs to provide feedback to the state and MSAA.

The EOTS must be completed by the end of MSAA Test Window at 5:00 pm (MST) on May 4, 2018.

Securely Shredding and Deleting MSAA Test Materials

All MSAA test materials must be securely shredded or deleted at both the school and district level. TCs are responsible for ensuring that test materials have been securely shredded. This includes deleting and emptying the recycle bin for any MSAA test materials (DTAs, printed versions of a student's test, and constructed response items) that were downloaded to a desktop or other locations. See page 25 of the Test Administration Manual (TAM) for guidance. TAMs are not secure test materials and do not have to be shredded. These may be discarded or kept. It is not required to send these back to ADE.

MSAA Reports

This is the first year the writing prompt is operational which means it is now included in the student's ELA score. Due to this change, a standards validation process must occur between writing scoring and reporting. The result is a significant delay in the availability of the reports. Most likely, MSAA reports will be available late September for the 2018 results. The Alternate Assessment Test Coordinator will be notified prior to the opening of the MSAA Reporting Portal, and instructions for accessing the reports will be included in the notification.

MSAA Instructional Supports

MSAA writing prompt responses are scored based on a rubric. The rubric for each grade is available on the [alternate assessment website under MSAA](#) in the "Instructional Supports & Resources" tab and can be used to plan instruction or score student responses throughout the year. While viewing this, review the other great resources in this tab.

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

We are one year into the implementation of ESSA. As previously noted, there have been significant changes in calculating the 1% Cap. In the past, LEAs were allowed to count up to 1% of their students that participated in the State's Alternate Assessment as proficient. The new language in ESSA allows states to test up to 1% of their students on the State's Alternate Assessment. This has had a great impact on many LEAs. Please continue to have discussions with your IEP teams about how your LEA is addressing this change. Moving forward, LEAs will still be required to submit Action Plans for exceeding the 1% cap. Look for more information this fall.

Exceeding the 1% Cap

The notification process will not take place until Summer 2018. An email notification will be sent to the Test Coordinator by the Alternate Assessment Director if the LEA has exceeded the 1% Cap for the 2017 - 2018 Alternate Assessment Administration. The Alternate Assessment Test Coordinator will then be required to submit an Action Plan and provide additional student information as requested. This is all through the Exception to the 1% Cap Application in ADEConnect and is open year-round for your reference.

If you have any questions regarding Alternate Assessments, please e-mail AssessingSWDs@azed.gov.

Wrapping-up AZELLA for School Year 2017-2018

AZELLA Stages II, III, IV, and V Placement Test Materials

ALL School Districts and Charters that have **AZELLA Stages II, III, IV, and V Placement Test** materials **MUST** return these materials to Pearson during the window of May 21-June 1, 2018. Boxes, shipping labels, and inventory sheets may be ordered through PearsonAccess^{next} through May 18. For each box of materials to return, you must order one green Nonscorable Return Label, one Nonscorable UPS label, and an Inventory Return Sheet. When ordering Pearson shipping boxes, you **must** order at least 2 boxes (mix or match sizes) otherwise UPS does not understand that flat shipping boxes are the items that are being shipped.

Stages II-V Placement Test materials to be returned to Pearson are as follows:

- All **UN**-used Stage II Test Book w/Speaking
- All **UN**-used Stages III, IV, and V Answer Documents
- All Stage II and Stages III – V Test Administration Direction books
- All Stages II-V Listening CDs
- All Stages III, IV, and V Test Book w/Speaking books
- All Stages II-V DVD Speaking Demonstration DVDs
- Any of the older version (**green**) Kindergarten Placement Test Books and answer documents

Please retain the new (blue) Kindergarten Placement Test materials.

For districts who administer the Stage II Placement Test, the AZELLA District Test Coordinator will automatically receive an order of the new revised Stage II Placement Testing materials from Pearson in July. Additional orders may be placed in in PearsonAccess^{next} after the first shipment has been received.

Spring 2018 Reassessment Score Reports

- **Second week of May 2018** – electronic copies of the reports and the student data files will be posted on **PearsonAccess^{next}**. Plan to download all 2017-18 test results from **PearsonAccess^{next}** before they are removed in September 2018.
- **Second week of May 2018** - test records will be on the EL70 Reports or in the AZELLA Corrections application in ADEConnect at the same time.
- **Tuesday, May 15, 2018** – paper copies of the score reports will be delivered to districts.

Please refer to the **AZELLA Spring 2018 AZELLA Reassessment PearsonAccess^{next} User's Guide** (pages 76-77) and the **AZELLA Spring 2018 Reassessment Test District Student File Layout** posted on **PearsonAccess^{next}** Spring 2018 Reassessment Test administration home page for directions on accessing and downloading these reports and data files.

School Year 2017-2018 Placement Testing

The final scoring cycle for 2017-2018 AZELLA Placement Testing closes on **Friday, May 18, 2018**. The administration of the Placement Test Speaking sessions and the key entry of Placement Test responses and Writing scores must be completed by Friday, May 18.

AZELLA Corrections Application

The AZELLA Corrections application in ADEConnect lists students with unmatched test records. Currently, any unmatched Placement Test records are listed. The unmatched Spring 2018 AZELLA Reassessment Test records will be included in the application by the end of day on May 8. Please check the application and submit corrections promptly. **All School Year 2017-2018 Placement Test and Reassessment Test corrections must be completed by June 22, 2018.**

AZELLA Testing for School Year 2018-2019

Test Coordinator Information and Assessment Test Security Agreement Forms

Every school year the Arizona Department of Education requires an updated Assessment Test Coordinator Information Form and the annual Assessment Test Security Agreement form on file for each district and charter. Both documents must be signed by both the District Test Coordinator and the Superintendent or Charter Holder, and then submitted to Testing@azed.gov before AZELLA testing can begin. The AZELLA District Test Coordinator's PearsonAccess^{next} account for School Year 2018-2019 Placement Test administration will be unlocked after ADE verifies that the AZELLA Placement Test Training has been completed and ADE has received the required Assessment Test Security Agreement for the new school year.

Placement Testing 2018-2019

- The AZELLA Kindergarten Placement Test and the Stage II Placement Test continue to be paper-pencil tests.
- **AZELLA Placement Stages III, IV, and V are ONLINE tests only.** Students will be using TestNav to complete the Stages III, IV, and V Placement Tests. Directions for the online Placement Test administration including updates to the TestNav platform and PearsonAccess^{next} will be provided prior to the opening of the Placement Test window. Emails providing updates on the status of these Pearson changes will be sent to AZELLA District Test Coordinators as information becomes available.
- **July 2, 2018** – Understand Scoring training and qualifications for AZELLA Kindergarten Placement Test Administrators and AZELLA Stage II Writing Scorers. All users must create a new login User ID and password for School Year 2018-2019.
- **July 3, 2018** – School Year 2018-2019 AZELLA Placement Test Training for AZELLA District Test Coordinators opens online. AZELLA District Test Coordinators will be sent a reminder email once the training is available.
- **July 3, 2018** – *Test Security and Ethics* online training opens for all School Year 2018-2019 District Test Coordinators, School Test Coordinators, District/School Technology Coordinators, Test Administrators, Data Entry clerks, and proctors. This required training must be completed prior to any State test administration and only needs to be completed once for the school year.
- **After an AZELLA District Test Coordinator's** PearsonAccess^{next} account is opened by ADE, the DTC may place an order for additional Kindergarten Placement Test materials, register students for the Placement Test, and proctor caching for the online Stages III–V tests will be available.
- **2 weeks prior to the first day of school** – AZELLA Kindergarten Placement Testing may begin provided the 2018-2019 required trainings and qualifications have been completed by the AZELLA DTC and Kindergarten Placement Test administrators, ADE has verified these training completions and the required qualifications from Understand Scoring, and ADE has received the Assessment Test Security Agreement form from the district/charter.

2018-2019 AZELLA Placement Test Scoring Cycles

Cycle	Last key entry date of student responses and scores in PearsonAccess ^{next}	Electronic results posted in PearsonAccess ^{next} ; Placement Test record to EL70 Report or AZELLA Corrections Application	Paper reports from Pearson arrive at District offices
1	8/3/2018	8/23/2018	9/6/2018
2	8/17/2018	9/6/2018	9/13/2018
3	8/31/2018	9/20/2018	9/27/2018
4	9/14/2018	10/4/2018	10/11/2018
5	10/12/2018	11/1/2018	11/8/2018
6	11/16/2018	12/6/2018	12/13/2018
7	12/21/2018	1/10/2019	1/17/2019
8	1/25/2019	2/14/2019	2/21/2019
9	2/22/2019	3/7/2019	3/14/2019
10	3/22/2019	4/11/2019	4/18/2019
11	4/19/2019	5/9/2019	5/16/2019
12	5/17/2019	6/6/2019	6/13/2019

The **AZELLA 2018 – 2019 Placement Test District Student File Layout** will be posted on **PearsonAccess^{next}** Placement Test administration in the Support > Documentation section.

Spring 2019 AZELLA Reassessment Test window is February 4 – March 22, 2019. Stages I and II will be pencil/paper tests and Stages III–V will be online tests.

OELAS Update

Save the Date!

July 30, 2018

EL Coordinator Boot Camp – Part One

Black Canyon Conference Center in Phoenix, cost will be \$85

Register [here](#)



If you have any questions regarding AZELLA, please email AZELLA@azed.gov.

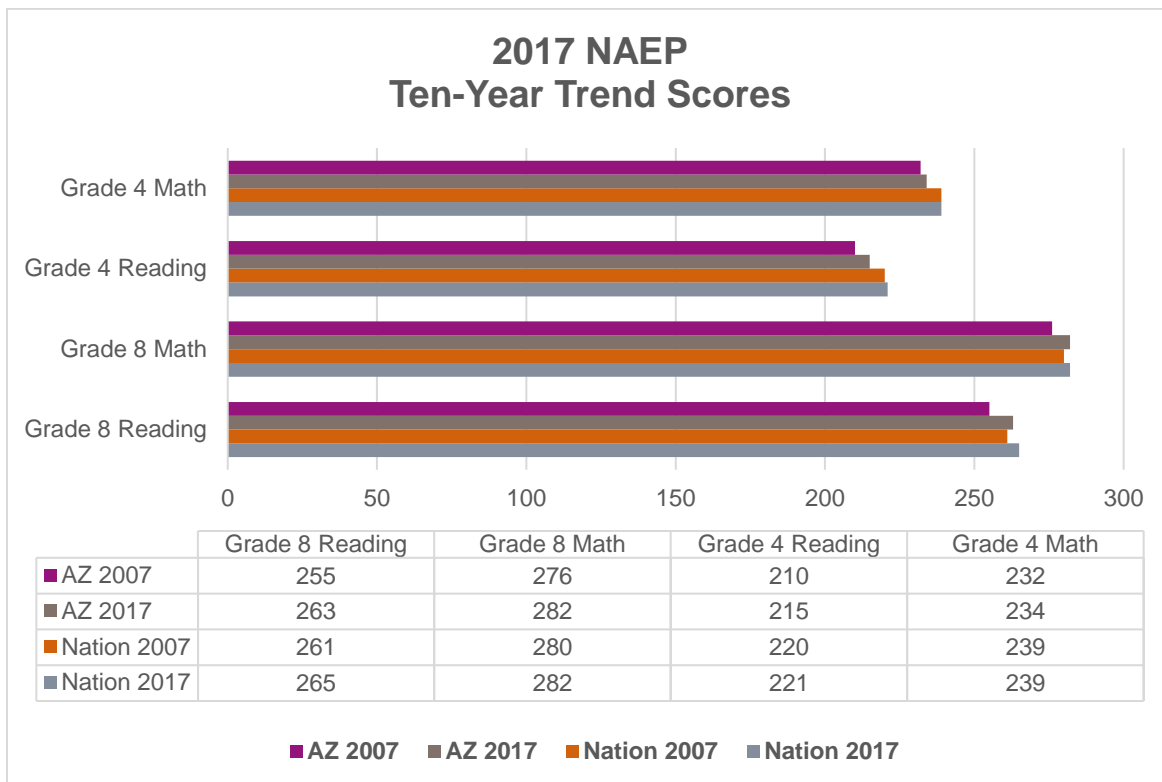


NAEP and International Assessments

Arizona Department of Education
Assessment Section

2017 NAEP Results Remain Strong

The National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) released grades four and eight results for reading and math from the 2017 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). NAEP is designed to inform academic achievement of elementary and secondary students. As Arizona continues to tackle many important education factors, the Arizona “ten-year trend” NAEP scores remain strong.



Grade 4 Math - AZ grew by +2 scale points (232-234) while the nation remained the same over the period

Grade 4 Reading - AZ grew by +5 scale points (210-215) - only 2 other states had stronger growth

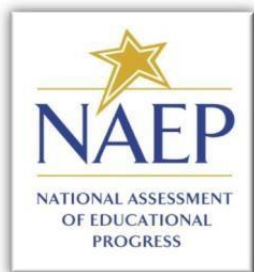
Grade 8 Math - AZ grew by +6 scale points (276-282) - only 1 other state had stronger growth

Grade 8 Reading - AZ grew by +8 scale points (255-263) - only 2 other states had stronger growth

To locate more information about 2017 NAEP, please refer to the following web sites:

National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB) - www.nagb.gov

National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) - www.nces.ed.gov



If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

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Mark.Mauro@azed.gov

(602) 364-1583

www.azed.gov/assessment/naep