

Arizona's A-F Letter Grade Accountability System

ELL Point Criteria – FY 2014

The A-F Letter Grade system includes a composite score and growth score. The composite score measures an LEA's (District or Charter) academic success in the areas of percent passing on AIMS, ELL reclassification rate, dropout rate and graduation rate. The ELL reclassification rate¹ accounts for the percentage of English Language Learners (ELL) reclassified as fluent English proficient on the Arizona English Language Learner Assessment (AZELLA) during the academic year.

LEAs and individual schools can earn three additional points for ELL reclassification above and beyond the possible 200 points on the A-F Letter Grade system if the LEA meets three criteria. The criteria were based on guidance from the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), state law and ELL impact data. First, an LEA must have **at least 10 ELL students** enrolled in an ELL program for one or more days during the current fiscal year. Second, an LEA must show that they **tested at least 95% of all students with an *ELL Need*** on the spring 2014 AZELLA. Third, an LEA must **reclassify 23% or more** full academic year (FAY) ELL students as proficient in English. The criteria apply to all school types (i.e., Alternative, K-2, Small, and Traditional) and LEAs.

Criteria for ELL Points (3 or 0)
1. Only LEAs with 10 or more ELL students are evaluated
2. LEAs must test 95% of students with an <i>ELL Need</i> on the Spring 2014 AZELLA
3. 23% or more of FAY ELL students across all grades reclassified as proficient

¹ Arizona identifies ELL students by use of the Home Language Survey also known as the Primary Home Language Other Than English (PHLOTE). (For detailed instructions on this process see <http://www.azed.gov/english-language-learners/files/2013/08/procedures-for-identifying-ell-studentsupdatejune2013-2.pdf>). Once a response on the PHLOTE identifies a student's home language as any other than English, the student is then administered the AZELLA. If the student scores below proficient on the AZELLA they are classified as *ELL Need*, and if the student is enrolled in an ELL program for one or more days in the current Fiscal Year, then the student is classified as an *ELL Student*. *ELL Students* are tested on the AZELLA the first time the student enrolls and completes the PHLOTE and every spring until the student is identified as fluent English proficient. Once a student tests proficient on the AZELLA they no longer need to take the AZELLA; they will continue to be monitored for two years but it will not be on the AZELLA. If for some reason a teacher or parent believes a student who has reclassified as proficient needs more English language services, that teacher and/or parent may refer the student to be included in services using the Teacher Referral Form. Monitoring and Referral forms can be found at <http://www.azed.gov/standards-development-assessment/arizona-english-language-learner-assessment-azella/> under the Resources tab.

In order for a student to have an overall proficiency level of proficient on the AZELLA, they must have a total combined score of proficient AND a proficient score in BOTH the reading and writing domains. For more information on the AZELLA and Arizona's ELL programs, please see <http://www.azed.gov/english-language-learners/>.



1) **Number of ELL students**

LEAs and individual schools must have at least 10 *ELL Students* (FAY and non-FAY) in order to be evaluated for ELL points. This *n* count helps to ensure that no individual student's test score can be identified in compliance with FERPA. The ELL Student belongs to the LEA/school where the student was last enrolled in an ELL program.

An ***ELL Student*** is any student with an ELL need in the current or prior fiscal year and enrolled in an ELL program for one or more days in the current fiscal year.

ELL Need is defined as any student with a less than proficient score on AZELLA in the current or prior fiscal year.

ELL Program enrollment is defined as any student enrolled in an ELL program (SEI, Bilingual Waiver, ILLP, Withdrawn by parent request in fiscal year (FY) 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014²) for one or more days in the current fiscal year³.

ELL Students withdrawn due to SPED criteria in the current fiscal year only are also included in the total number of ELL students for LEAs and individual schools

2) **95% Tested on AZELLA**

All *ELL Students* must participate in the Spring 2014 AZELLA (see ARS 15-756.05). In order for an LEA and individual school to receive ELL points, at least 95% of all students (i.e., FAY and non-FAY) with an *ELL Need* must be tested on the Spring 2014 AZELLA. LEAs must test all students regardless of ELL program participation (i.e., SEI, Bilingual waiver, ILLP, Withdrawn by parent request, and those students not designated to any of these groups/categories). Fluent English Proficient (FEP) students are NOT included in the 95% tested criteria.

The Spring 2014 AZELLA testing window is determined by ADE's Assessment Division. For FY 2014, the testing window is February 10 through March 28, 2014. For the 95% tested criteria on AZELLA, LEAs and individual schools are held accountable for testing only those students enrolled in their school on the first day of the testing window which is February 10, 2014. If a student enrolls in your school between January 1, 2014 and February 9, 2014 and is new to the state, a placement test should be given; if the student completes the test during that time frame they will not need to be re-tested during the testing window. If a student enrolls in your school between January 1, 2014 and February 10, 2014 and is a current ELL student, you will need to test this student during the testing window. If a student enrolls in your school after the start date of the testing window (February 11, 2014) and is a current ELL student, you should contact the prior school⁴ to determine

² Students withdrawn due to parent request in fiscal year 2011 or later are included in an LEA's number of ELL students until they score proficient due to the FY2010 Auditor General's finding stating that LEAs and individual schools are accountable to students who are not proficient in English, regardless of program enrollment.

³ ELL program enrollment must be entered correctly in SAIS for students to be accurately counted as ELL.

⁴ Please use the AZELLA form for documentation → <http://www.azed.gov/standards-development-assessment/arizona-english-language-learner-assessment-azella/> select (select the "Testing Coordinator" tab and the document "Record for Transferred PHLOTE Students").

if s/he was tested. If the school tested the student you do not need to test him/her again; however, if they did not test that student you should test him/her during the testing window.

Situation	What to do	Will the Student be Counted for 95% Tested
Student enrolls between January 1, 2014 and February 9, 2014 and is new to the state	Give a placement test and do not test them during the testing window	No
Student enrolls between January 1, 2014 and February 10, 2014 and is a current ELL Student	Test this student during the testing window	Yes
Student enrolls after the start date of the testing window (February 11, 2014) and is a current ELL Student	Contact the prior school to determine if this student needs to be tested	No, but it will not count against you. The student was not enrolled in your LEA or individual school on the first day of the testing window; however, the student needs to be tested in order to meet the requirements of continuing ELL students.

Students included in the 95% tested criteria:

- Students with an *ELL Need* in the current or prior Fiscal Year
- ELLAR students re-enrolled in an ELL program in the current or prior Fiscal Year
- Students with an ELL service program withdrawal code of 'Withdrawn by parent request' in FY2011 or later (until they score proficient)
- Dual labelled partially tested students. These students are enrolled in both ELL services and SPED services and can only complete a portion of the AZELLA⁵.

Students excluded from the 95% tested criteria:

- IFEP
- FEP 1 & 2
- ELLAR students **NOT** re-enrolled in an ELL program in the current Fiscal Year
- Students with an ELL service program withdrawal code of 'Withdrawn due to SPED criteria' and **not** re-enrolled in an ELL program

For this calculation, the number of students tested on the Spring 2014 AZELLA is divided by the total number of students **enrolled in the LEA and individual schools on the first day of the spring testing window.**

95% Tested on AZELLA

$$= \frac{\text{\textit{\# of Students Tested on Spring 2014 AZELLA}}}{\text{\textit{\# of Students with ELL need Enrolled on First Day of Spring AZELLA}}}$$

⁵ For directions on how to give a partial test please contact AZELLA@azed.gov.

3) Reclassification Rate

LEAs and individual schools must reclassify at least 23% of their full academic year (FAY) ELL students across all grades to receive ELL points. A *FAY ELL student* is one who is enrolled in a school during the first 10 days of the school year and remains continuously enrolled until the first date of the Spring 2014 AZELLA testing window.

Students with an ELL program code of 'Withdrawn due to SPED criteria' in the current or prior fiscal year are NOT included in the calculation of reclassification rate.

A reclassification rate for an LEA and individual school is the number of FAY ELL students scoring an overall proficiency level at any time in the current fiscal year divided by the total number of FAY ELL students with a complete spring 2014 AZELLA. A complete AZELLA means that all domains (i.e., reading, writing, speaking, and listening) of the test have a score, thereby making it possible to determine an overall proficiency level.

$$\text{Reclassification Rate} = \frac{\text{\# of FAY ELL Students Testing Proficient on AZELLA}}{\text{Total Number of FAY ELL Students}}$$