

The Grader

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Dear Stakeholders,

The State Board of Education on September 25th, 2017 approved cut scores for their traditional school models (K-8 and 9-12 approved May, 2017) A-F Letter Grades will be available in ADEConnect this week. An additional notification will go out to everyone on our distribution list once letter grades are viewable. Information on how to access these grades is available on the following page of the newsletter. Updated business rules with the most recent changes approved by the SBE can be found [here](#). Any questions on how to access letter grades should be sent to Achieve@azed.gov. Schools desiring to submit an appeal should review the [SBE website](#) for details.

Also in this edition of *The Grader* is information about Arizona's Consolidated State Plan, A-F timeline for all schools other than traditional, Alternative School Application information for FY18, and finally a few FAQs.

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~ Jen

A-F Letter Grades for Traditional Schools

The State Board set cut scores for Traditional School letter grades at the September 25th Board Meeting. Embargoed letter grades go out to schools and districts later this week. LEAs will be able to view their letter grades on ADEConnect once available. Grades will be posted publicly on our website on October 9th.

To view your schools' letter grades:

1. Log on to ADEConnect
2. Select "A-F Letter Grades"
3. Select the school for a detailed breakdown

In order to see the "A-F Letter Grades" option, you will need the "Accountability" permission. If you do not see this option in ADEConnect, contact your entity administrator. These results are embargoed and cannot be shared until publicly posted by ADE on October 9th, 2017. If you have district-level access, a list of all your schools will show in ADEConnect; if you have school-level access you will only see your particular school. Selecting the link associated with a school will take you to details regarding your letter grade and subsequent calculations. Schools serving grades that overlap both models (i.e. a K-12 school) will receive two letter grades; one for K-8 and one for 9-12. If a school has an "NR" or "Not Rated," they did not meet the minimum n-count requirement for enough components to be graded this year, per State Board decision.

The State Board oversees the appeals process. Information on how to appeal can be found on the [State Board of Education website](#) at the bottom of the page.

State Plan Update

Arizona's consolidated State plan, which included the state's accountability plan, was approved by the United State Department of Education earlier this month. More information can be found [here](#).

A-F Timeline for Alternative, AOI, K-2, and Small Schools

The State Board voted to not assign FY17 letter grades for schools exclusively serving grades K-2 and small schools (schools that do not meet the minimum n-counts to be evaluated using the traditional model). The timeline for Alternative and AOI schools can be found [here](#).

Alternative School Status Application

The [Alternative School Status Application for FY18](#) opens October 1st and will remain open until January 1st. All schools that want to be considered for alternative status for the 2017-2018 school year must apply or reapply before January 1st. Schools operating a Dropout Recovery Program (DRP) must apply for alternative school status.

In order to apply, schools must be operating an alternative school in the current school year, meet the criteria outlined in the [Alternative School Status Annual Application Guide](#), and will receive current year state assessment scores for their students. Schools should check that the Entity and LEA IDs are correct for their submission to ensure they are not erroneously denied. It is imperative that schools verify they have answered all questions on the application and provided all the requested supporting documentation. Failure to do so will result in an automatic rejection of the application.

If you do not see a message that your application has been successfully submitted and a confirmation email with a copy of what you have submitted, please contact us as soon as possible to verify your application has been submitted successfully. The application can be found [here](#) and all questions should be directed to Achieve@azed.gov.

FAQ

How can I calculate Graduation Rate for my school?

Schools can calculate their own graduation rate using the rules and formulas outlined in the [Graduation, Dropout & Persistence Rate Technical Manual](#).

Where can I find FY17 performance on AzMERIT, MSAA, AIMS and AIMS A Science?

Data and results can be found on our website [here](#).