

The Grader

In This Issue

Dear Stakeholders,

“Life isn’t about waiting for the storm to pass...It’s about learning to dance in the rain.” - Vivian Greene

This quote seems to just fit this time of year with the build-up to accountability. With everything that goes into A-F, it contains pieces of information that can be used in many different ways other than just a part of the state required label. We hope to provide you some ideas in your Grader.

We appreciate the feedback given from the last survey. We are diligently trying to complete two of the ideas we received. One being a LEA download of the summary/aggregated data in a spreadsheet format for your schools. This should eliminate the going between the different schools and compiling the information for your LEA. The other item is the previous assessment records for student transfers that will include their cohort information. There is more we are working on, but we also don’t want to get too far ahead until we meet these first two items.

We are grateful for the positive feedback on the CCRI A-F how-to video for first time users. We are working on including more support via videos and documentation moving forward.

We hope you find The Grader informational and always encourage you to email Achieve with ways we can make it better.

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Graduation, Dropout, and Persistence Rate Technical Manual

[The Graduation, Dropout, and Persistence Rate Technical Manual](#) has been updated to reflect clarifications made to certain withdrawal codes (such as W6). This manual can be used to understand the accountability calculations as well as how different withdrawal and year-end codes impact calculations.

Free and Reduced Lunch/Economically Disadvantaged Subgroup Designation Notice

It was decided that ADE will not re-start the process of automatically flagging students as Economically Disadvantaged. As such, schools will need to report student level data that reflects qualification on a student by student basis for economically disadvantaged. This was decided as this data is required for state and federal reports, in addition to A-F accountability; it is essential that the data reflect the true economically disadvantage percentages for the entity. Data for FY18 must be finalized by July 13th at 5 pm. It is understood that this may be difficult to do as students for FY 18 have concluded their year. It is strongly recommended that when they return for the 2018-2019 you update both years for more accurate reporting. If you are unable to complete these by July 13 your accountability will be calculated as it was in 2017.

No Embargo for Assessment Data

There is no embargo on aggregated school and district assessment data for this year. A notice went out in May detailing how ADE will address statewide data requests. If a media outlet is seeking state-level data, please feel free to refer the reporter to ADE for more information. If a media outlet is solely interested in the data from your specific LEA, please confer with your legal counsel to ensure you provide the outlet with only the information you are required to provide by public records law. Schools have always been able to send out student level information to parents as soon as they receive it. If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to our Assessment Team at 602-542-5031 or Testing@azed.gov.

Static File

All schools can find their static file in ADEConnect under “Accountability” then “A-F Letter Grades” on the top right corner . Make sure you have toggled for the correct year in the top left corner. When ADE administers the A-F Letter Grade Accountability System, it provides all schools a static file to help validate student-level data used in their accountability determinations. Data is being provided for all schools; however, only traditional schools have an A-F model at this time. The summary information, such as points earned on proficiency or growth, will be displayed on the “A-F Letter Grade” page in the next few weeks. Moreover, there are no preliminary letter grades as the State Board has not yet defined cut scores. Schools should thoroughly review and verify the data contained in the preliminary 2018 static file and contact Achieve@azed.gov with specific data questions by July 13, 2018. All data changes must be submitted by July 13th at 5pm. After this date, data is considered final and will be used for final letter grade determinations.

The static file merges assessment data provided by statewide assessment vendors with AzEDS enrollment information to help schools understand performance based on various accountability-related business rules (e.g., FAY status, test participation status, proficiency level, etc.). There are several new data elements due to the new accountability system (e.g., AIMS Science, acceleration/readiness indicators, etc.). Keep in mind, MSAA and growth data will not be available until later in the summer. The static file includes FAY indicators for students, which informs schools about the students included in traditional school A-F accountability determinations and the components in which they were included (i.e., English Learner calculations, acceleration/readiness, etc.). Additionally, this file is stacked. That means that each student may have multiple rows of data depending on how many subjects in which the student tested (i.e., ELA, Math, and Science). This file should be used to check your data and make any changes that reflect the reality of what happened for a student. If for example, you see a student on this list who is not FAY because they exited the school prior to the first day of the AzMERIT testing window, then you should review that student’s exit date, correct it in your student management system, and resubmit the data to ADE. Similarly, program participation should be validated for every student as well as assessment results and ethnicity. Students that do not pass integrity or are in the corrections application will not show up in the static file. While Alternative and AOI schools do not yet have a model, this data should still be utilized to verify accuracy of student enrollment, assessment, demographic, and program participation records.

The 2018 Static File Codebook on page 4 lists the fields in the file, as well as descriptions of each field and values. This codebook can be utilized to understand the student-level data available to LEAs through ADEConnect. LEAs should use this codebook along with the released FY18 static file to ensure accurate student data. Any questions or concerns related to the static file should be directed to Achieve@azed.gov following the guidance provided on page 10.

Static File Codebook

The Static File Codebook provides descriptions and values for all the items in the 2018 Static File. We recommend folks print out a copy of the codebook to have handy as they go through the static file. The codebook can be found on our website, [here](#).

Data Inquiries and Data Corrections

After reviewing your Static File, you may have to make corrections to your data or have inquiries based on the data you have. Before you submit an inquiry, make sure it is not data that should be corrected on your end (such as checking your corrections application, editing exit codes, demographic information, etc.). All data corrections must be completed before July 13 at 5pm.

Schools/LEAs may have questions about the data found in the 2018 Static File and various reports that can be accessed in ADEConnect. The best way to submit your question is through an email to the Achieve Inbox (Achieve@azed.gov); sending emails to specific individuals within the unit is not recommended. The Achieve Inbox is checked by the entire Accountability Unit with emails read and responded to within 24 hours. In some cases this might be to say we are researching the issue and will reply back within a specific timeframe. When submitting emails to Achieve Inbox, please use the following as a guide:

- Which specific report have you accessed the data from
- On what date (MM/DD/YYYY) did you access the report
- Which fiscal year (FY) is the data inquiry for
- Use SSIDs when referring to specific records; never include name, date of birth, etc.
- Always use the Entity ID and/or the LEA ID
- Provide a detailed description of the issue/inquiry
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Below are a few examples of the types of questions/issues that might arise when reviewing data that can be submitted to the Achieve Inbox.

- 1) In reviewing information from the FY 2018 “A-F Letter Grades” static file, it was found on MM/DD/YYYY that SAIS ID ##### from Entity ##### does not have a scale score for the AzMERIT assessment; Why?
- 2) Why is student (SSID #####) on the FY 2018 “A-F Letter Grades” static file that I pulled on MM/ DD/YYYY not included in the EL reclassification rate for John Tyler Elementary School (Entity ID #####)?
- 3) On MM/DD/YYYY we pulled the Four Year Graduation Rate for our school (Entity ID ###), it was impacted by a student (SSID #####) who was coded as a W10 instead of a W1 when the student was sent to an Arizona detention center on MM/DD/YYYY. Can the coding be changed?

Data Inquiries and Data Corrections Cont.

Please allow as much time as possible for data inquiries, especially where it concerns many students/records. If your inquiry finds that you need to make data corrections, those corrections still need to be completed by 5pm on July 13th, regardless of when you submit your inquiry. If you submit inquiries at the last minute, you risk not having enough time to make the appropriate corrections.

CCRI Spreadsheet Updates

The State Board of Education recently provided clarification and changes on who should be included in the CCRI spreadsheet as well as the minimum n-count. Schools should include all cohort 2018 students that were enrolled in their school from October 1st, 2017 through May 1st, 2018 as well as students that are part of cohort 2018 and graduated from their school early. The new minimum n-count has been changed to 10 cohort 2018 students that meet the modified full academic year (FAY) definition above. If you have any questions, please email Achieve@azed.gov for clarification.

ELL Amendment Application

The AZELLA Corrections, & Amendment Request applications are located in ADEConnect under the AZELLA Corrections/SDELL Reports section. The AZELLA Corrections Application is used to identify and correct matching errors between student test records and student data in AzEDS. This application should be checked on a regular basis to identify test records that are not correctly matched with student information within AzEDS. All corrections should be completed by July 13th in order to ensure the test records are reflected in your final accountability calculations. The Amendment Request Application provides schools an opportunity to request an amendment to the list of students they were responsible for testing during the 2018 AZELLA Reassessment window. Schools are able to correct data in AzEDS until July 13th. Any incorrect data should be edited through AzEDS (as opposed to submitting an amendment request). The Amendment Request Application is to be utilized when no other process exists to update student information. A request can be made to remove a student from the list if there is a legitimate reason the student should not have been tested. Conversely, a request can be made to add a student who was missing from the list but had a need. If the data submitted in AzEDS as of July 13th supports the amendment request, the school's test list will be updated. The Amendment Request application will be open from July 13th through July 27th.

Business Rules Document for FY18

The State Board of Education approved the FY18 models at their May 21st meeting. This business rules document describes the calculations and business rules used to calculate the components of A-F letter grades. The business rules document reflects all the changes made for the new year is available on their website as well as on ADE's website, [here](#).

Meet the Team

Research & Stat Analyst SR Senior Research Scientist



Dr. Xiaoyuan Tan serves as the senior research scientist to the Accountability and Research team. Her major responsibilities are to provide research and statistical support to the state and the federal accountability system. This year marks Dr. Tan's seventh year in this role. In the past six years, Dr. Tan has developed in-depth understandings of K-12 education policies and realities. She has superb skills in modeling the state-wide student data to reflect the policies, and she is the proud producer of the yearly reported Arizona SGP and SGT data.

Dr. Tan holds a Master's in biostatistics and a Ph.D. in Educational Measurement and Statistics. Both degrees are from the State University of New York at Albany.

Originally from China, Dr. Tan now lives in North Phoenix with her husband, Jocelyn and their two beautiful twin baby girls Marlene and Camille.

Technical Consultant



Niharika has been with ADE for four months and in that time has been involved in a project which is responsible for providing A-F Performance letter grades to all the schools in Arizona by analyzing the educational assessment data generated every year. Responsible for data preparation, validation, and measuring various key indicators for K-8, 9-12 and hybrid models to assess the performance of a school.

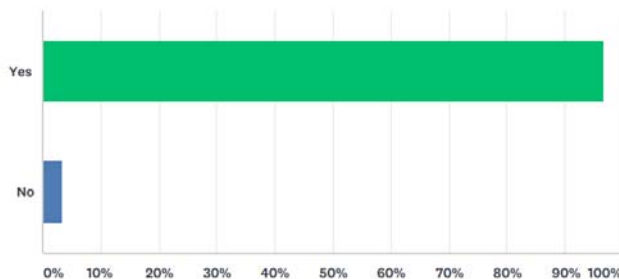
Niharika obtained her Master's in Statistical Computing and Analytics from Texas A&M University. Her Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics was from JNTU-Hyderabad, India. Her free time is spent exploring new places, culture, and cuisines. She is an indoor person who really enjoys playing chess.

Survey Summary

In our last issue of *The Grader*, we sent out a survey requesting input on what stakeholders would like to see for download options within ADEConnect. The summary of those responses are below. We have already started work with our IT team to implement the most common requests as well as address the rising need for the Assessment Data Download Report that was requested in the open-ended question. Please feel free to provide general feedback via our survey link included in all email correspondence.

Q1 Are you interested in being able to download an Excel or CSV file that contained the following at a district level: School Name, Entity ID, Label, Aggregated Scores for Model (i.e. Proficiency, Growth, Acceleration, CCRI, etc.)?

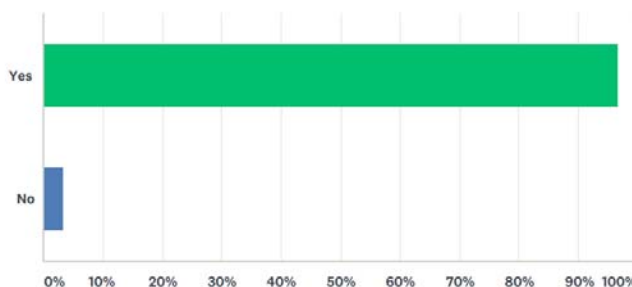
Answered: 30 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	96.67%	29
No	3.33%	1
TOTAL		30

Q2 Are you interested in being able to download an Excel or CSV file by school that would provide data found on the school's accountability page that provides more disaggregated data (i.e. grade level performance in proficiency and growth, etc.)?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 0

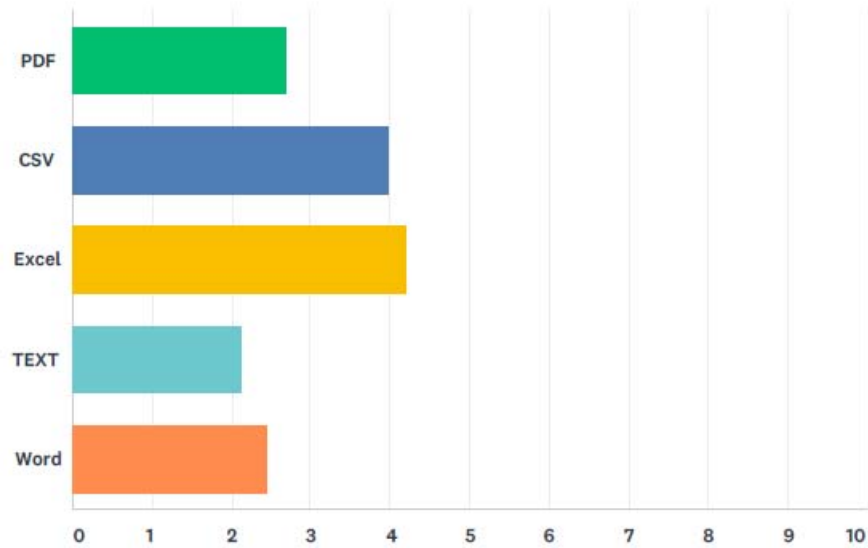


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	96.67%	29
No	3.33%	1
TOTAL		30

Survey Summary Continued

Q3 Please rank the options you most prefer when downloading files from sites such as ADEConnect A-F Accountability.

Answered: 30 Skipped: 0



	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	SCORE
PDF	8.70% 2	26.09% 6	21.74% 5	13.04% 3	30.43% 7	23	2.70
CSV	44.83% 13	24.14% 7	20.69% 6	3.45% 1	6.90% 2	29	3.97
Excel	43.33% 13	43.33% 13	6.67% 2	3.33% 1	3.33% 1	30	4.20
TEXT	4.35% 1	0.00% 0	30.43% 7	34.78% 8	30.43% 7	23	2.13
Word	4.55% 1	13.64% 3	22.73% 5	40.91% 9	18.18% 4	22	2.45