

The Grader

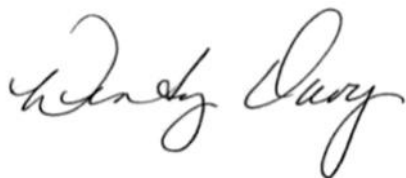
Hello Arizona Educators,



Keeping with the storm theme (and because I liked this picture), we are happy to say that we've been working with many of you regarding your static file to resolve issues and concerns. We appreciate the dialog and are updating the business rules to reflect the questions that arise. It is reassuring that you are all correcting and understanding the data for this round of A-F labels.

Business rules will have footnotes at the very end that will clearly show any substantive changes that occurred and when. This is something new we've added based on the needs from the field for further clarification. Business rules are considered draft until the final A-F is completed.

We have some substantive items in this mini issue of *The Grader* so please be sure to review the items that pertain to your needs and area of accountability.



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Static File Update

The Static File has now been updated to include Growth, Statewide Tested and English Language Learners. Additionally, a column has been added to indicate students that are included in the 95% tested calculation. At this time, 95% tested has been included **for grades 3-8 only** as the EOC testing calculation is more complex and under review. Please note that MSAA scores will not be available until August and subsequently are not included in the Static File at this point in time. The Static File can be found 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. Schools should thoroughly review and verify all data in the Static File and contact Achieve@azed.gov with specific data questions. All data changes must be submitted prior to July 13th at 5pm. After this date, data is considered final and will be used for final letter grade determinations.

Static File Video

In addition to the Static File Codebook found [here](#), we have created a Static File video, [here](#). We recommend that first-time Static File users and those in need of a refresher watch the video which will walk through what to look for in the Static File and how to address data corrections at a high level. Another resource you may find helpful as you validate the data in the Static File is the 2018 Business Rules which can be found [here](#).

Data Inquiries and Data Corrections

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

If a data inquiry is needed please email Achieve@azed.gov. The Achieve inbox is checked by the entire Accountability & Research unit and emails are read and responded to typically within 24 hours. Directing emails to the shared inbox is the easiest way to ensure that your questions are addressed in a timely manner. When sending emails, please include the following information: which specific report have you accessed the data from, the date (MM/DD/YYYY) did you access the report, which fiscal year (FY) the data inquiry is for, SSIDs when referring to specific records (never include name, date of birth, etc.), entity ID and/or the LEA ID, and a detailed description of the issue/inquiry.

Email Reminder

When emailing Achieve@azed.gov with data questions and/or concerns please make sure you are sending student SSIDs and ONLY student SSIDs. Under FERPA no other personally identifiable information about students should be sent via email. If we need further information about a student to address your question we will contact you and use the ADE Secure File Delivery system if needed. Your cooperation with this is greatly appreciated.

AIMS Corrections Application

The new AIMS Corrections Application is now available and is replacing the old SAIS AIMS Correction application. The new application is found in AzEDS under “Assessments” and should be used to submit any corrections that are needed for the AIMS and AIMS A tests. Please be sure to check this application and ensure that none of your students are in need of a correction. Be aware that only one change may be made per student, per day in the correction application. For more information please see the Assessments newsletter, The Examiner, found [here](#).

Quality Assurance Check

Prior to the release of final letter grades, schools will have the ability to see aggregated, school-level data used for A-F calculations in ADEConnect. This will not serve as a preliminary letter grade as the aggregated data will still be missing MSA data, CCRI data, and any corrections made to the schools’ data during the corrections window. The aggregated data for the quality assurance check will be available in the coming weeks and we will send out a separate blast to notify the field. In ADEConnect, select “Accountability” then select “A-F Letter Grades”, be sure to toggle for 2018. The summary tables found there will serve as a Quality Assurance Check which should be carefully evaluated to ensure all data is correct.

CCRI Spreadsheet Audit

This year we will be conducting a basic audit of CCRI spreadsheets used for A-F Letter Grades. A small sample of schools will be selected at random to provide either their completed spreadsheet for FY 17, FY 18 or both fiscal years. The person responsible for submitting the points (whoever was indicated in ADEConnect) will receive a direct notification from our team, along with a due date.

Alternative School List

The final Alternative School List for FY 18 is now available on our website [here](#). Alternative schools will not receive letter grades for the FY 18 school year, If schools have any questions on the alternative school status, please email Achieve@azed.gov.

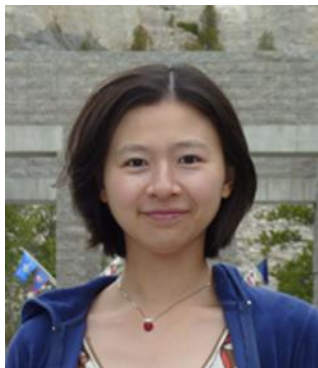
Alternative School Application Process for FY 19

To improve the timeline and efficiency in this year’s process the following items will be implemented and followed closely.

- Strict application timelines from October 1, 2018 to January 15, 2019
- Notification of approval is tentatively mid-March
- Mission statement will be mandatory on all applications
- The Mission Statement will be the one in effect on October 1, 2018
- Arizona State Charter Board will review the list of charter school applicants as a verification point
- Other alternative school sponsors will be contacted for verification if there is any abnormality or additional clarification regarding their applicants
- Communication regarding these points will occur starting immediately

Meet the Team

Education Program Administrator - Director of Program Evaluation



Yating Tang serves as the Director of Program Evaluation in the Accountability and Research unit in the Arizona Department of Education. She has been with ADE for 7 years. She received her Ph.D. in Education from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 2010. She is passionate about program evaluation and has been assigned a lead role in several program evaluation projects. She truly believes that mixed method designs can provide a comprehensive picture of a program and help determine the success of a program. In addition to program evaluation, she also handles various internal and external data requests.

She is married to Shengchih and has two children: Patrick (6 years old) and Iris (2 years old). She enjoys leisure time with her family.

Program Project Specialist II - Office Manager



Nita Gentry is the Office Manager of the Accountability and Research Team. She came on board to ADE in February of 2015, coming from eight years working at the Legislature; both House and Senate.

Her role as the Office Manager is to assist the Chief Accountability Officer and she also supports the Accountability/Research Team, administratively.

“I have a love for basketball and football but my passion is in Design (specifically Interior Design which was my major), I also do catering and event planning (inclusive of weddings, etc.) on the side.”

Program Project Specialist II



Shannon Etz joined the Accountability and Research Team as a Program Project Specialist II this in June following her graduation from Arizona State University. Shannon earned concurrent bachelor's degrees in Management and Public Service & Public Policy with a minor in Educational Studies. Shannon has interned in, studied, and researched education throughout her college experience and is excited to continue developing her knowledge and passion for education at ADE.

Shannon is originally from Colorado and in her free time likes to bake, hike, travel, and spend time with her friends and family.