

AZELLA @ PELL

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Brought to you by the AZELLA Team at the Arizona Department of Education's Assessment Unit.

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Thank you for ensuring student Reassessment tests were administered and returned to Pearson. The AZELLA Teams knows that this was not an easy task under the Coronavirus conditions and we appreciate your understanding and cooperation. We have a couple of announcements about the Spring 2020 AZELLA Reassessment Test to share with you.

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Due to school closures in our State, ADE extended the window to return AZELLA Reassessment test materials. While the return window was extended only four weeks, the impact on the schedule for releasing results was not a one-for-one day delay. Pearson has also been impacted by COVID-19. While they are not closed, they must also comply with the required social distancing protocols in their facilities. This results in reduced teams working on processing, scanning, scoring, and reporting for Arizona; thus extending the reporting window out until June 29.

The electronic results and reports will be available in PAN as of June 29, 2020. These reports and Student Data Files, or SDF, may be viewed, downloaded, saved, and printed as needed for students' cumulative files and for parents. The shipping of the paper copies of the individual Student Reports to districts is still to be determined.

Student Information System users will need to have the AZELLA Spring 2020 Reassessment District Student File Layout in conjunction with the Spring 2020 AZELLA SDF.

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The Spring 2020 Reassessment results are valid and will be used for EL program services eligibility for School Year 2020-2021. Students who receive an Overall Proficiency Level of proficient must be **Reclassified Fluent English Proficient**, or RFEP, through your district's Student Information System and synced to AzEDS. These students will start their first of two years required monitoring with School Year 2020-2021.

Those who receive an Overall Proficiency Level of less than proficient will be eligible for EL program services for the next school year.

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Students who receive an **Undetermined** result and those students who should have been administered the Spring 2020 Reassessment Test but were not due to school closures, will need to be administered a Placement Test within the first 2 weeks of the 2020-2021 school year. They will be administered the Stage of AZELLA Placement Test that matches the grade level that they are enrolled in for 2020-2021. The AZELLA DTC will use the [English Learner Status Undetermined](#) Placement Test referral form for these students. This referral form is located on the Assessment DTC web page under the AZELLA tab.

For the 2019-2020 Kindergarten students who will be repeating Kindergarten for the 2020-2021 school year may NOT be administered the Kindergarten Placement Test, or KPT, again. For these repeating Kindergarten students, you will need to use the results from the last completed AZELLA test, which may be their KPT from 2019-2020, for EL program services eligibility for the 2020-2021 school year.

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There are a few remaining AZELLA tasks to close out this unprecedented school year.

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The AZELLA Placement Test window closes on Friday, May 15, 2020. The electronic reports and the cumulative 2019-2020 Student Data File, or SDF, will be available in PAN on June 4, 2020.

These reports and the Placement SDF may be viewed, downloaded, saved, and printed as needed for students' cumulative files and for parents. The shipping of the paper copies of the individual Student Reports to districts is still to be determined.

Student Information System users will need to have the AZELLA 2019-2020 Placement Test District Student File Layout in conjunction with the AZELLA Placement SDF.

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AZELLA test records which have student demographic errors are placed in the AZELLA Corrections application. These records must be corrected by July 14 for Fiscal Year 2020. Once corrected, the records will move to the student's EL70 – AZELLA Student Test History Report. Placement Test Cycle 12 and the Spring 2020 AZELLA Reassessment records will need to be corrected once they are uploaded into this application, which means AZELLA DTCs need to check the Corrections application now through July 14 for additional records that may end up here. This is especially important for EL program services integrity and for students who received an Overall Proficiency Level of Proficient and Reclassified Fluent English Proficient.

The AZELLA Corrections application is only available in ADEConnect in the **Assessments** menu item and then select **Corrections**.

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For districts and charters serving K-2 students, you will continue to use the same KPT and Stage II Placement Test materials for the 2020-2021 school year.

The **used** KPT Response Sheets and the **used** Stage 2 Student Test Books must be securely stored with the AZELLA DTC for **one calendar year**. Do not put these **used** documents in the students' cumulative files. After the anniversary date for each **used** test item, you must securely shred the response sheet and test book.

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2020-2021 School Year Pre-Testing Requirements. As an American television journalist says, "Alright, let's get after it!"

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The [Assessment Test Coordinator and Security Agreement](#) form is required to be submitted every school year with all required signatures. This form is available on ADE's Assessment District Test Coordinator web page and must be submitted to Testing@azed.gov prior to 2020-2021 PearsonAccess^{next} accounts being enabled.

The **AZELLA Test Security Agreement** form for next school year must be signed by everyone who will have contact with the AZELLA test materials, reports, and online systems for AZELLA. This signed agreement must stay with the AZELLA District Test Coordinator for 6 years and made available to ADE upon request.

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For school year 2020-2021, there are 3 different avenues of required AZELLA training. The first is through the AZELLA Training Management System, more commonly referred to as the ATMS. Next is the Understand Scoring training and qualifications specifically for Kindergarten Test Administrators and those who will be scoring the Stage 2 Writing extended responses. The last bit of AZELLA training is the district specific AZELLA presentations created and delivered by the AZELLA District Test Coordinator. I will briefly explain each of these on the next few slides.

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The ATMS is home to the Placement, Reassessment, Stand-Alone Field Test, and year-round AZELLA training modules. Each user must have his or her own ATMS account. The required training modules in the ATMS are assigned by the AZELLA Role or **Category**. District Test Coordinators must complete the training modules associated with the DTC category ONLY, the School Test Coordinators must complete the training modules associated with the STC category, the Test Administrators must complete the training modules associated with the Test Administrator category, etcetera. Not everyone is an AZELLA DTC. Please be sure that all AZELLA staff know their role assignment and completes the training modules associated with their specific category. Modules that are completed under an incorrect category cannot be moved to the correct category; therefore, users will have to re-do the modules under the correct category. Every AZELLA role or category must complete the Test Security and Ethics module.

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Understand Scoring is an online training platform developed for the administration of the AZELLA Kindergarten Placement Test and the local scoring of the AZELLA Stage 2 Placement Test Writing extended responses. This site is specifically designed to ensure a clear, concise, and consistent way to administer and score assessment items on the Placement Tests.

In addition to the AZELLA training modules that must be completed, all AZELLA staff who will be administering the Kindergarten Placement Test and/or locally scoring the Stage II extended Writing responses are REQUIRED to complete the associated trainings and qualifications through Understand Scoring prior to administering any KPTs and/or scoring any of the Stage II Writing responses.

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Prior to administering any AZELLA Placement Tests, the DTC must create and deliver an in-person or virtual Placement Test training session tailored specifically for their district and schools to include, but not limited to, district policies and procedures for the AZELLA Placement Test, test security, testing schedules, test materials, and reviewing the required ATMS training

modules by AZELLA role or category. All AZELLA staff for the district and schools within the district are required to attend this training presentation. DTCs and School Test Coordinators must also ensure that all Test Administrators read through the Test Administration Direction manuals for those Stages of AZELLA they will be administering at the time of the DTC presentation. This is an opportunity for the DTC to clarify or address any questions or concerns that the AZELLA staff might have.

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We have a few dates to share with you as you get your calendar set for the 2020-2021 school year.

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The ATMS training modules will be available beginning on July 13, 2020.

After all required Placement Test training modules have been completed and security agreements have been signed, the AZELLA District Test Coordinator's PAN account will be enabled which will provide the DTC the ability to order additional testing materials, add or enable other PAN users, and register students for the Placement Test.

AZELLA Placement Testing may begin **ONLY AFTER** the DTC, STC, and Test Administrators complete all of the pre-testing requirements. The earliest available date to begin testing is 2 calendar weeks prior to the first day of school. The last day for administering a Placement Test is May 14, 2021.

The Spring 2021 AZELLA Reassessment Test window is February 1 through March 19, 2021.

The AZELLA 2021 Stand-alone Field Test will be administered concurrently with the Spring Reassessment Test. The Field Test window is February 1 through April 2, 2021.

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Other criteria for administering a complete AZELLA Placement Test within the first 2 weeks of the school year include:

New Kindergarten students and students new to Arizona who meet the eligibility requirements for an AZELLA Placement Test;

Students who were not administered the Spring 2020 AZELLA Reassessment Test due to school closures;

Students who are showing as EL Group 8 on the EL73 Report; and,

Students who qualify for the Moving from EL Services to Mainstream referral.

Kindergarten students who are repeating Kindergarten for 2020-2021 may not be administered a new KPT. You will use the student's most recent AZELLA record for eligibility of EL program services for 2020-2021.

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Coming Soon: A webinar discussing the Stand-Alone Field Test will be planned for early Fall 2020. All AZELLA DTCs will receive information and registration for the webinar soon.

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AZELLA is a standards-based assessment. With the adoption of the 2019 English Language Proficiency Standards, or ELPS, a revised AZELLA needs to be developed. To launch the development of the AZELLA aligned to the 2019 ELPS, Committees of Arizona educators met last November to work on the new Blueprint and give their recommendations on which standards and proficiency indicators are appropriate for assessment and which are more appropriate for instruction only.

New Reading and Listening passages were developed and have been already reviewed for content, bias, and sensitivity by educators and community members in January of this year. The next step, was to develop the Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing items -or questions- for the AZELLA Stand-Alone Field Test. Again, committees were brought together to meet virtually to review the items for content, bias, and sensitivity in late April 2020.

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Critical steps for the transition of AZELLA to the new ELP standards are still ahead. ADE will finalize the test construction of the multiple test forms that will be administered during the Stand-Alone Field Test (AZELLA SAFT) in spring of 2021. As soon as the data from the SAFT becomes available, a Data Review Committee will meet. Resulting from the data of the SAFT, there will be a test selection process and the first operational administration of the new AZELLA will take place during the 2022 Spring Reassessment window. For the Placement test, the new operational test will be administered starting in the fall of 2022.

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Due to the extended school closures as a result of COVID-19, the AZELLA Art Contest has been postponed to Fall 2020. Some artwork submissions have already been received by our office, and these will be held and included in the art contest in the fall. More details regarding the Fall 2020 AZELLA Art Contest will be sent to AZELLA District Test Coordinators as they become available.

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Thank you. Due to Arizona Stay-at-Home COVID-19 restrictions, the AZELLA Team is currently working remotely from our homes. For questions about AZELLA, you can reach us by sending an email to AZELLA@azed.gov.

The AZELLA Team wishes you a happy, healthy, and safe summer. We are looking forward to working with you in coming school year.