

The Grader

A-F Model Updates

On Monday February 24, 2020, the Arizona State Board of Education approved thresholds for the new 8th Grade Mathematics component within Acceleration/Readiness and an updated model to award Special Education Bonus points to schools. Highlights regarding these decisions are outlined below.

K-8 Schools

- On the Grade 8 Mathematics component within Acceleration/Readiness, schools will earn 2.5 points if the percent of students who score highly proficient on the 8th grade math assessment increases from the prior year or maintains above 60%. Schools will also earn 2.5 points if the percent of students who score minimally proficient on the 8th grade math assessment decreases from the prior year or maintains below 10%.
- For Special Education Bonus Points, schools will receive: 2 points if their FAY SPED percentage is at or above 80% of the K-8 statewide average, 1.5 points if their FAY SPED percentage is at or above 70% of the K-8 statewide average, or 1.0 points if their FAY SPED percentage is at or above 60% of the K-8 statewide average.

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A-F Model Updates Continued

9-12 Schools

- For Special Education Bonus Points, schools will receive: 2 points if their FAY SPED percentage is at or above 80% of the 9-12 statewide average, 1.5 points if their FAY SPED percentage is at or above 70% of the 9-12 statewide average, or 1.0 points if their FAY SPED percentage is at or above 60% of the 9-12 statewide average.

Alternative School Status Application Window

The window to submit an application for Alternative School Status for Fiscal Year 2021 (2020-2021 school year) opened on March 9, 2020 and will close on May 29, 2020. All schools that would like to be considered for Alternative School Status for Fiscal Year 2021 **MUST** complete and submit their application no later than **5:00pm on May 29th**. Keep in mind that schools must apply every year they would like to be considered for Alternative School Status. The Alternative School Status Application is available [here](#).

Please note that schools applying for Alternative School Status for Fiscal Year 2021 will be using data from the current Fiscal Year (2020) in their application. Arizona statute supports 6th through 12th grade alternative school programs for accountability purposes. It is the intent of the Arizona Department of Education to be in alignment with this statute ([Section C of 15-796](#)).

Additional information about Alternative School Status and the application process is available in our Alternative School Status FAQ page [here](#).

If you have questions, please contact Achieve@azed.gov.

Tentative FY20 A-F Letter Grade Timeline

Please note this is subject to change based on data availability, resource capacity, and Arizona State Board of Education decisions.

As changes occur we will update stakeholders through The Grader and/or email notices.

- March - Traditional and Alternative CCRI spreadsheets are made available through ADEConnect; Initial versions of the A-F Letter Grade Business Rules are released
- May - The first A-F Static File is made available to schools/LEAs through ADEConnect showing student lists, ethnicity, and other demographics; the Data Inquiry and Correction window opens
- June - An updated A-F Static File is released with AzM2 state assessment results included; Updated submission templates are made available to Alternative schools for the Final On-Track to Graduate and Credits Earned data submissions
- Early July - The A-F Static File is updated to include SGP and SGT data
- July 15, 2020 - Fiscal Year 2020 data closes; the Data Inquiry and Correction window closes note that data submitted as of the close of business will be used to calculate A-F Letter Grades
- July 16, 2020 - The EL Static File amendment application opens
- July 30, 2020 - The EL Static File amendment application closes
- July 31, 2020 - All self-reported A-F Letter Grade data including CCRI (Traditional and Alternative), Final On-Track to Graduate (Alternative), and Credits Earned (Alternative) are **due by 5:00pm**
- August - An updated A-F Static file is released; School aggregated data is made available to schools/LEAs through ADEConnect
- September - A-F Letter Grades are released; A-F Letter Grade Appeals open
- October - A-F Letter Grade Appeals close; A-F Letter Grades are finalized post-appeals

Required AOI Reporting for A-F Letter Grades

At the Arizona State Board of Education meeting on February 24, 2020, it was determined that for Fiscal Year 2020, AOI (Arizona Online Instruction) schools will not receive A-F Letter Grades. They are required, however, to review their A-F Static File data for accuracy, complete the Traditional CCRI Spreadsheet and submit their CCRI data to allow accurate modeling for future letter grades. All modeling will be completed according to the Traditional A-F Letter Grade Models.

If you have questions, please contact Achieve@azed.gov.

CCRI Spreadsheets Available

The CCRI Self-Reporting Spreadsheets for both Traditional and Alternative schools are now available through ADEConnect. When downloading the spreadsheet and associated instructions please be sure to download the correct version, either Traditional or Alternative. The only schools that should be utilizing the Alternative CCRI spreadsheet are those there were approved for Fiscal Year 2020 Alternative School status and are included on the list available [here](#).

CCRI Audits and Required Documentation

As you begin collecting the associated documentation and entering data into the CCRI Self-Reported Spreadsheet; please note that under the direction of the Arizona State Board of Education, the Accountability & Research team will begin conducting in-person audits of CCRI submissions for a sample of schools. Schools selected for this audit will be required to show appropriate documentation that each student included in their spreadsheet has met the appropriate criteria for each indicator marked for them. Schools that appealed their Fiscal Year 2019 CCRI data were identified by the State Board of Education for an automatic audit, please be sure to prepare your data and documentation appropriately. If you have questions regarding what constitutes as appropriate documentation, please contact Achieve@azed.gov.

Initial Data Reviews and 15-915 Data Corrections

We recommend that schools and LEAs begin to review both current and prior fiscal year student data to identify if any updates (current year) or 15-915's (prior year) need to be submitted. Some key reports to review include:

- The Graduation Rate Report - available in ADEConnect under Accountability
- The Dropout Rate Report - available in ADEConnect under Accountability
- The Persistence Rate Report - available in ADEConnect under Accountability
- The Dropout Tracker Report - available in ADEConnect under AzEDS Portal

If any data is identified that needs to be corrected from a prior fiscal year, we **strongly** recommend that you begin the 15-915 correction process through School Finance as soon as possible to ensure that your correction is completed prior to the close of the Data Inquiry and Correction window at **5:00pm on July 15, 2020**.

Per-Pupil Expenditure Data

Data reporting Per-Pupil Expenditures is expected to be added to the Arizona School Report Cards website ([here](#)) by the end of April. The School Report Cards Team is currently working in collaboration with School Finance, Communications, and IT to prepare information, documentation, and IT systems that will allow schools/LEAs to view Per-Pupil Expenditure data. This is to aide schools in preparation to communicate with families, stakeholders, and the public about this important school funding data point. As more information becomes available, the School Finance, Communications, and School Report Cards team will continue to update schools/LEAs.

ADE Assessments Conference



ARIZONA ASSESSMENTS CONFERENCE

Integrating assessments, standards, and accountability
for student success.

September 28-30, 2020

**Renaissance Phoenix Glendale Hotel and Spa
9495 W. Coyotes Blvd.
Glendale, AZ 85305**

Registration is now open!

Cost: \$425 per person (includes breakfast, lunch, and parking each day)

Session proposals are being accepted through May 1, 2020

Conference website: www.azed.gov/assessment/conference

Lodging: www.azed.gov/assessment/lodging

Room rate is \$121 (or prevailing state rate) plus applicable taxes. Rate is available until August 27, 2020 or until sold out.

Questions: Testing@azed.gov