![Arizona Department of Education logo]

The Grader

Hello to All Arizona Stakeholders

We want to extend our best wishes and thanks for all the hard work you have been doing with reopening schools, working with online environments, and educating Arizona children during these unprecedented times.

Accountability is working on several projects and moving forward with publishing limited data in ADEConnect. In addition, we assisted in the launching of a new website. This year we will work with Title I in completing the required auditing withdrawal codes as they affect persistency, dropout and graduation calculations. Accountability has been working with our technical groups regarding accountability in light of the pandemic. Everyone is working hard with local, state, and national educators on what accountability should look like in the 2020-2021 school year.

In this addition of the Grader you will find the most updated information on what is currently available. Please do not hesitate to ask us any questions so we can support your needs. Thanks again for your perseverance in the first quarter and through the rest of the year.

J. David Selby

Research and Statistical Analyst Sr - Director

In This Issue:

Official Notice of Pupil Withdrawal Form Audit to begin in the 2020-2021 School Year

ADE Accountability will be working with our Title I Program in the completing audits on the "Official Pupil Withdrawal Forms". A link to that document, which includes "Guidance and Procedures", can be found here. Using the proper withdrawal codes ensures the accurate reporting of graduation, drop-out, and persistency rates. This audit is based on statues A.R.S. § 15-239 (A)(1), A.R.S. § 15-827 (A), (B), A.R.S. § 15-1042 (H) and direction from the United States Department of Education. We will be including scenarios based on incoming questions and common misconceptions in the Grader over the next few months.

Misconception: A school may withdraw a student with a "W1" code if they have a verbal statement from a parent, teacher, or neighbor of the student stating where the student will be attending school.

Clarification: A school **can only** use a "W1", or one of its sister codes, under the following scenarios with proper documentation:

W1, S1, W21, S99 Transfer:

- Request for student records from a receiving public or private high school or an educational program (that culminates in a regular high school diploma).
- Written record of a response from an official in the receiving school or program verifying or acknowledging the student's enrollment.
- Report from AzEDS indicating other enrollment in an Arizona High School (i.e. Dropout Tracker report).

The documentation that accompanies the "W1" code would need to be available if your school were chosen for an audit.

Audits will not begin until we have gathered additional information from the field regarding practices and field's understanding of the withdraw form. Additional information will be sent prior to audits being conducted.

Graduation and Dropout Rates

The Graduation Rate reports for Cohort 2019 and Dropout Rate report for FY20 are now available on Accountability's website. You can access these reports on our Data page.

Approved Alternative School List

The approved Alternative School list for FY21 is now available. You can find the list for FY21 as well as prior years' lists on our new Alternative Schools page on our website, located here.

Accountability Timeline for 2020-2021

Date	Activity
September 2020	ADEConnect will refresh individual components that were available and self-reported data.
November/ December 2020	School Report Cards will reflect enrollment, graduation, etc.

ADEConnect Update and Review

The A-F reporting platform within ADEConnect has been updated bringing over "only" the grade from the previous year for consistency and longitudinal purposes. Raw data that was available will also be included. We encourage schools and LEAs to review the 2020 A-F platform within ADEConnect and other available reports to note any changes to their static and/or live data such as graduation, dropout, etc. Please let us know if you have any questions.
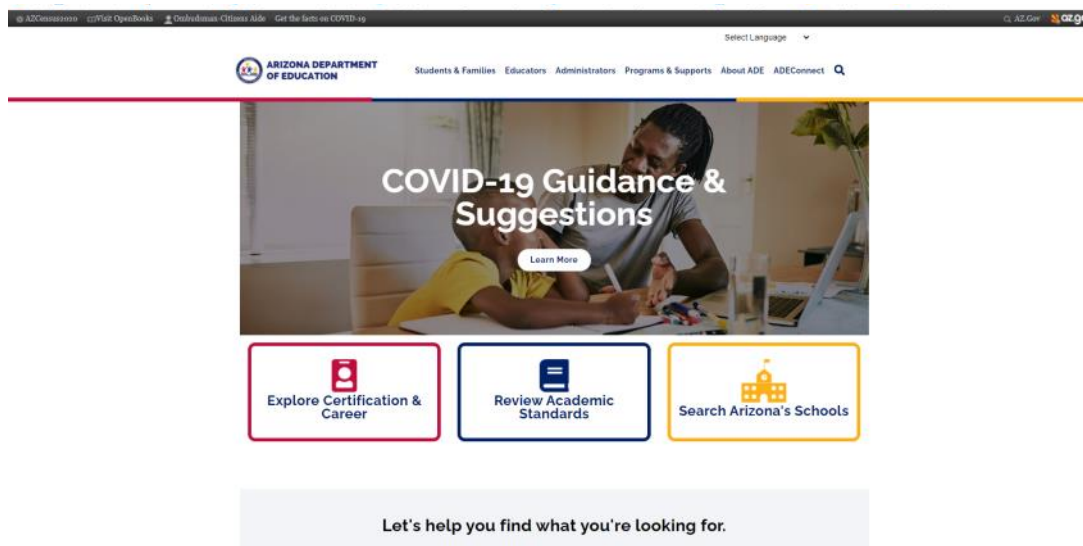
September Board Meeting and Accountability

Accountability will be presenting the following items during the September Board meeting scheduled on the 28TH starting at 10:00 a.m.:

- 2019-2020 State Accountability A-F Self-Reported Component Analysis
- 2020-2021 State Accountability A-F Component Analysis and Review
- 2020-2021 State Accountability A-F Consideration of Traditional Science Bonus Point Change

Announcing!

The New and Improved ADE Website

ADE has launched its new website with a brand new look. This new look has the same resources available with a more user-friendly design. The website was launched on Friday, September 4th, 2020 and can be accessed here.

For direct access to our Accountability and Research site, you can find it here.