To:                 Alternate Assessment Test Coordinator

From:**Bethany Spangenberg,** Deputy Associate Superintendent of Assessment

Date:              September 30, 2024

**ALERT: Fall Announcement: Student Selector Application Opens October 1, 2024**

**Student Registration**

The Student Selector Application in ADEConnect will open from **October 1, 2024-November 29, 2024**, for identifying and selecting students for alternate assessments. The IEP team must determine eligibility for alternate assessment before the close of the Student Selector Application to allow for suitable instructional time before administration. Only the Alternate Assessment Test Coordinators (TCs) can select the eligible students for MSAA ELA and Math (Grades 3-8 and 11), MSAA Science (Grades 5, 8, and 11), and Alt ELPA (Grades K-12 who are identified as ELs and eligible for alternate assessments).

* Students are identified by the District of Attendance (DOA). The District of Residence must ensure records are updated to reflect attendance and special education program at the DOA for the DOA to be able to identify students in the application.
* Braille is available for assessing ELA Foundational reading standards (grades 3 and 4) for MSAA only. Test Coordinators must identify any students in Grades 3 and 4 who are learning foundational Braille.
* Although the District of Attendance (DOA) registers the students in the Student Selector Application, the Test Coordinator at the District of Residence (DOR) must communicate with the DOA to ensure that the selected student list is correct.
* If a student is not on your list in the Student Selector Application, the student records are not current or complete. Please update the student records and sync with AzEDS. AzEDS updates nightly and syncs nightly. You can check for missing students the following day. ADE cannot manually add students to the Student Selector Application or change the student data.
* If student records are incorrect, please update the records and sync with AzEDS. Pay careful attention to the EL status as this determines which students are uploaded to TIDE for the Alt ELPA Summative.
* Instructions for selecting eligible students are on page 6 in the [2024-2025 District Test Coordinator Handbook](https://www.azed.gov/sites/default/files/2024/09/2024-2025%20Alternate%20Assessments%20District%20Test%20Coordinator%20Handbook.pdf).

To meet criteria for alternate assessments, the student must meet all participation criteria descriptors:

1. The student has a significant cognitive disability.
2. The student is learning content linked to (derived from) state content standards.
3. The student requires extensive direct individualized instruction and substantial supports to achieve measurable gains in the grade-and-age-appropriate curriculum.

NOTE: [The Alternate Assessments Eligibility Form](https://www.azed.gov/sites/default/files/2024/08/2024-25%20Alternate%20Assessment%20Participation%20Guidelines%20and%20Eligibility%20Determination.pdf) has been updated for the 2024-2025 school year. The form is required for yearly, alternate assessment eligibility determination. The eligibility criteria have not changed.

If you have not submitted the [Alternate Assessment Test Security Agreement](https://www.azed.gov/sites/default/files/2024/04/DTC%20Test%20Security%20Agreement%202024-2025.pdf) for the 2024-2025 school year, please fill out the form in its entirety and send it to the [testing inbox](mailto:Testing@azed.gov) to prevent delayed access for this school year.

We want to thank Alternate Assessment Test Coordinators and IEP teams for their efforts in following eligibility criteria to make assessment decisions for your students.

**1% Calculations Coming Soon**

As you may be aware, ADE is working toward meeting the Secretary for the United States Department of Education requirements set forth at 34 C.F.R. 200.6 (c)(2) limiting the total number of students in the state participating in the alternate assessment. As part of that requirement, the state is required to:

“Take steps to support and provide appropriate oversight to each LEA that the State anticipates will assess more than 1.0 percent of its assessed students in a given subject in a school year using an alternate assessment aligned with alternate academic achievement standards to ensure that only students with the most significant cognitive disabilities take an alternate assessment aligned with alternate academic achievement standards.” LEA calculations (over and under 1%) will be sent to LEAs via email. The email will advise for the next steps.

The 1% calculation is all students who took any statewide assessments in each content area, except ACT Aspire is not included. For a high school district, it would be all students who took MSAA divided by all students who took (AASA, AzSCI, ACT, and MSAA). Please keep in mind this also includes your Tuitioned-out students as well. Please view the attached 1% Threshold PowerPoint.

**If you have any questions, please contact us at** [**AlternateAssessment@azed.gov**](mailto:AlternateAssessment@azed.gov) **or 602-542-8239.**