Accountability & Research | THE GRADER
November 2024 Edition

New Semester

Dear Arizona Educators,

We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving! We are pleased to inform you that the Accountability Application in ADEConnect has been fully updated with the most current data for A-F Letter Grades.

Schools that submitted an appeal before the November 15th deadline will continue to see their current letter grade displayed in ADEConnect until the State Board issues a new grade. However, please note that these letter grades will be redacted from the public file released by the State Board. This ensures that the appeal process is respected and that only finalized grades are made publicly available.

Please reach out to us with any questions that you have so we can support you during accountability season. We wish you and your students the best year possible.

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Sean Smith
Chief Accountability Officer

Yassin Fahmy
Director of Accountability

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Khan Academy

The Arizona Department of Education recently made an exciting announcement that 100,000 Khanmigo licenses are available for free to districts with students in grades 5-12. Khanmigo is a powerful tool that can assist students in their learning.

If you would like additional information on how to participate, please let us know.

Parent in Military

The definition of military-connected students was updated in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2020. The amendment removed the term "active duty" from the definition of "military-connected." Therefore, any students with parents on "active service" must be reported under Student Characteristics as such. This includes individuals on active duty or full-time National Guard duty, but not those on inactive status or in the Retired Reserves.

Income Eligibility 1&2

As a reminder, to be included in the publicly reported Accountability data sets, students' Income Eligibility I & II data must be entered in the LEA's Student Information System.

Accountability, grants, and other programs each consume the Income Eligibility I and II indicator data for various purposes. Schools should enter student-level, October 1 data in AzEDS by the tentative December 11th deadline to reflect the most accurate, student-level information.

Graduation Rate inclusion for SPED students

It is the intent of both the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) and the Arizona State Board of Education (SBE) not to penalize schools in A-F accountability for providing individual education programs (IEPs) that students deserve and are entitled to under Federal and State Law [34 C.F.R. § 300.102(a)(3)(i), 34 C.F.R. § 300.101, A.R.S. § 15-764(A)(1)]. This states students provided with special education services can attend public school and receive these services until age 22.

Schools should contact ADE Accountability at Achieve@Azed.GOV during the June validation window to begin the process of rectifying their graduation rate data as soon as possible. In some cases, if the issue cannot be resolved prior to the release of A-F letter grades, schools can submit an appeal to the SBE Appeals committee if the school's overall letter grade is affected. However, ADE strives to work with schools to release the correct data prior to letter grade release.

ADEConnect Graduation and Dropout Applications Updates

We have received feedback from multiple LEAs that it would be useful to include an identifier of graduates and dropouts on the corresponding applications' student level report.

- You can find the new columns on the student level report labeled as "IsGraduate" or "IsDropout" in the last column of the report.
- Please do continue to let us know how we can improve the ADEConnect applications to be of service to your needs at (Achieve@AZED.GOV).

Self-Reported Data Monitoring

Starting in December, we will conduct a basic audit of Self-Report spreadsheets used for A-F Letter Grades Components. A small sample of Traditional 9-12 schools will be selected at random to provide their completed CCRI spreadsheet from the 2023-2024 school year. Additionally, a small sample of Alternative 9-12 schools will be selected at random to provide their completed 2023-2024 spreadsheet for CCRI, Credits Earned, and/or On-Track to Graduate. The person who submitted the points for 2023-2024 (indicated in ADEConnect) will receive a direct notification from our team along with a due date by which they will be required to provide their completed spreadsheet

Alternative School List 2025

The initial alternative school list is available here. There are still some schools that did not meet submission requirements who have been contacted regarding submitting follow up information. Once approved or denied, the list will be updated and the field will be notified of the official final list of alternative schools as it becomes available.

Accountability DOs

Items/Tasks Affecting Both State and Federal Accountability:

- Ensure school and district teams are checking student integrity reports (additional information below) and working to clear all errors. Integrity checks ensure that student records match across ADE systems. Integrity errors can lead to students' exclusion from A-F calculations.
- Verify enrollment in subgroups such as Special Education, English Learners, Migrant, Homeless, and Parents in the Military.
- Update pupil withdrawal codes as necessary.
- Review the student-level reports on ADEConnect for Graduation, Dropout, and Persistency and make any necessary corrections. It's especially important to review and correct these records prior to July 15th when the fiscal year closes. These students will

affect accountability in later years. Checking for accurate data now can help avoid the need to submit corrections via the 15-915 process.

- Contact Achieve with questions either by phone or email
  - achieve@azed.gov
  - (602)542-5151

District Accountability Coordinator Information and Training

To improve communication related to Accountability tasks and training, we have begun establishing a District Accountability Coordinator for each LEA. This individual will be the primary contact regarding deadlines and submissions related to Accountability. As we implement training videos and updates to our resources, we will notify District Accountability Coordinators.

If you have not yet completed the District Accountability Coordinator form, please do so here.

Initial Data Reviews and 15-915 Data Corrections

We recommend that schools and LEAs begin to review both current and prior fiscal year students' data to identify any needed updates (for the current year or prior fiscal year). 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
- **For prior fiscal year data corrections:** We recommend that you begin the **15-915** correction process through School Finance as soon as possible to allow for those corrections to be passed down to Accountability.
- <u>**For data corrections in the current fiscal year (school year 2024-2025):**</u> Please complete corrections prior to the close of the Data Inquiry and Correction window at **5:00pm on July 15, 2025.** Fiscal year 2025 corrections completed in student information systems after July 15th will no longer sync with ADE's systems and cannot be included in accountability calculations.

For more information on deadlines and submissions, you may visit this important posting from AZEDS and School Finance: https://www.azed.gov/finance/fy-2024-monthly-payment-and-azeds-processing-schedule

School Report Cards Updates

Earlier this year, we added two new school-defined sections to the School Report Cards: **Academic Focus (Including Holocaust instruction attestation), and School Goals**. You can learn more about the new sections in the February 2024 edition of The Grader here.

If you haven't completed any of the above sections, you can still do so. Please log into your admin portal and begin the process.

If you havent done so yet, please log in to your School Report Card admin site to update any required information. Keeping your data current ensures accurate and up-to-date reporting for your school. The 2023-2024 school report cards website will be release mid December, please make sure to update any relevant information prior to the release.

Exiting 12th Graders with 'SC' and 'CC' Year-End Status

Twelfth grade students who finish the school year and **do not graduate** should be withdrawn with the Year-End code 'SC'. Year-End codes 'R' and 'P' are not applicable to 12th grade students, and if used will cause these students to fail integrity in AzEDS. Integrity failures can cause issues with reporting as well as funding.

Please ensure that correct Year-End codes and withdrawal codes are being used. Full descriptions of these codes can be found in our Graduation, Dropout, and Persistence Technical Manual.

We've received several questions in recent months about the 'CC' year-end code. The 'CC' code was designed for students concurrently enrolled in multiple schools. For example, a student who attends both a local high school and a Career and Technical Education school. The CC code can now be used as a year-end code for concurrently enrolled students who are not expected to return to the school. In the coming days, we will also update the Graduation, Dropout, and Persistence Technical Manual.

Students should receive a graduation code from only one school (see A.R.S. § 15-701.01). Please use the following process for graduating students enrolled in more than one school:

- The school issuing the diploma should apply the appropriate graduation code: (G, W7, or S7)
- Any school in which the student is concurrently enrolled should enter a CC code as the year-end code.
  - Example: A student will receive a diploma from Washington High School but is concurrently enrolled at Adams-CTED for CTE courses. Adams-CTED exit the student with a CC and Washington High School will enter a G.

Exit and withdrawal codes are specific to the student's membership at the school and are not aligned to the courses for which they are enrolled. Students who are concurrently enrolled must finish all required coursework and receive credit prior to receiving a graduation code..

The Graduation Rate Technical Manual can be found here.

The Official Notice of Pupil Withdrawal Form can be found here.

Available Public Reports

Several public datafiles are available on the Accountability and Research Data page. The reports include:
- Achievement Assessments
- Science Assessments
- English Learner Assessments
- Graduation Rate
- Dropout Rate

Integrity Error Guide

The Accountability Integrity Errors guide can help schools troubleshoot common integrity errors, such as errors with pupil withdrawals or membership. The document includes error code numbers, descriptions, and troubleshooting suggestions. To view the guide, visit the Pupil Withdrawals page on our website, under "Pupil Withdrawal Resources & Forms", or access the document directly by clicking here. Please feel free to contact Achieve@azed.gov with any questions or comments.
For a comprehensive reference guide on integrity rules and errors, please visit the AzEDS Reference page on ADE's website by clicking here.

P.S: Integrity failures exclude students from important Accountability related reports and documents, including the A-F calculations. To see which students are currently failing integrity, please use the INTEG15 – Student Data Integrity Report on the AzEDS Portal through ADEConnect.

Glossary-ADE Years

The Accountability Unit receives many questions about the different ways in which we refer to years. The following cheat sheet provides a brief guide on the different terminology.

Name	Description	Examples
School Calendar Year1 (CY)	The calendar year for the school/LEA. Varies by school.	July 25, 2023 **TO** May 15, 2024
Calendar Year1 (General)	The typical calendar year.	January 1, 2024 **TO** December 31, 2024
School Year (SY)	The academic year. Runs from July of one calendar year to June of the following calendar year.	May 25th, 2024 is in the 2023-2024 School Year October 31st, 2024 is in the 2024-2025 School Year
Fiscal Year (FY)	The AZ Government's financial accounting year. AZ's Fiscal Year starts on July 1st and ends on June 30th of the following year. Fiscal Year is always identified by the Calendar Year in which the Fiscal Year ends.	May 25th, 2024 is in Fiscal year 2024 October 31st, 2024 is in Fiscal Year 2025
Cohort Year	The year a student is projected to graduate from high school if they graduate on time. Cohort Year is assigned when a student first enrolls in Grade 9 or a US high school for the first time. This only changes in extreme circumstances.	A student who entered high school in Grade 9 during the 2023-2024 school year at the start of the year is assigned Cohort Year 2027. A Grade 10 student moves to Arizona from another state during the 2023-2024 school year. This student keeps 2026 as their Cohort Year. A student from another country enrolls in an Arizona school in Grade 11 during the 2023-2024 school year. That student is assigned Cohort Year 2025.

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[1] One should carefully review the context of calendar year, because people use the two meanings interchangeably.
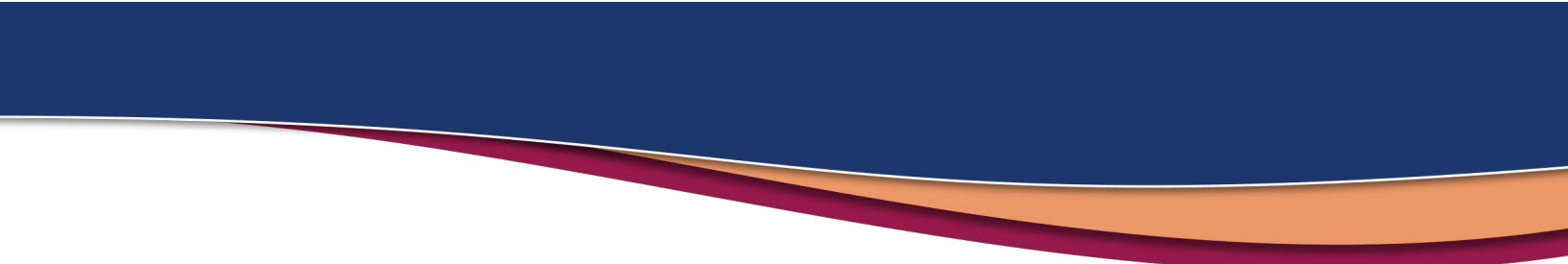
4, 5, 6, 7-Year Graduation Rates	A school's 4, 5, 6, 7-Year graduation rate is calculated for each cohort using the percent of students that graduated after 4, 5, 6, or 7 years. Graduation rate is calculated based on students' Cohort Year. Note graduation rate is always reported a year in lag.	In 2023-2024 the following graduation rates will be reported and are available: Cohort year 2023: 4 & 5-Year Graduation Rates Cohort year 2022: 4, 5 & 6-Year Graduation Rates Cohort year 2021: 4, 5, 6 & 7-Year Graduation Rates

English Learner (EL) Students

Name	Description	Example
Fluent English Proficiency (FEP)	A number indicating the years since EL service (max 4). Students with a FEP code of 0 are currently receiving EL services.	During the 2023-2024 school year, students that received EL services would have a FEP code of 0. A student who achieved English fluency during the 2021-2022 school year would have a FEP code of 2 for the 2023-2024 school year.
EL Cohort	Members of a graduating cohort that received EL services while in high school	A student who received EL services as a sophomore in 2021-2022, is part of a school's graduating EL Cohort.

Putting it all together.
- Julie entered 9th grade on August 8th, 2016, which is the start of the 2016-2017 School Year and is part of Fiscal Year 2017.
- Julie is assigned a Cohort Year of 2020.
- In March of 2017 Julie passed her AZELLA test and will no longer receive EL services. She is considered FEP 0 for the 2016-2017 year, because even though she passed her AZELLA test she still received services within that year.
- For Julie's Sophomore year (2017-2018) she is considered FEP 1 as she had not received EL services within that year.
- FY 19 was Julie's Junior year and her FEP code was 2.
- In May of 2020, Julie successfully graduated high school with most of Cohort 2020.

- By the end of FY 2023, Julie is included in all of her school's extended year graduation cohorts for 4, 5, and 6- year, including the EL Cohort subgroup.

A-F Timelines

The following is a tentative timeline that outlines A-F related deadlines. Subject to change.

A-F Event	Dates
Verify Income Eligibility AzEDS student level data	10/31/2024 – 12/11/2014
Alternative Schools Application for fiscal year 2024	02/10/2025 - 03/31/2025
Initial On-Track to Graduate Submission	02/10/2025 - 03/15/2025
Submit CCRI Self-Reported Data	05/10/2025 - 07/31/2025
Submit Credits Earned Self-Reported Data	05/10/2025 - 07/31/2025
Final On-Track to Graduate Submission	05/10/2025 - 07/31/2025
Correct Test Records in ADEConnect	05/15/2025 - 06/30/2025
Validate Graduation Data for fiscal year 2024 graduates	05/25/2025 - 07/01/2025
DRP Application for fiscal year 2024	05/15/2025 - 06/30/2025
Static File V1 Validation	06/20/2025 - 07/15/2025
Static File V2 Validation	08/20/2025 - 09/15/2025
Cut score Presentation	Sept 2025 Board Meeting
Cut Score Approval	Oct 2025 Board Meeting
A-F Public File release on State Board of Education's website	11/01/2025
A-F Appeals Window	11/01/2025 - 11/15/2025
Tentative meeting of A-F Appeals Committee	TBD

Accountability 101 Guidebook

To support school/LEA staff members who are new to Accountability processes and A-F Letter Grades, we would like to remind the field that the Accountability 101 Guidebook is available here. This document has also been posted on our website under the "Guides & FAQ" tab on our Resources page.

The Accountability 101 Guidebook is intended to provide a high-level overview of A-F Letter Grades, share important contacts and resources, and cover some important terms. If possible, we encourage you to include this in training materials for any new staff members expected to work on Accountability/A-F Letter Grade related items.