



MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Charter Holders, Principals, and Testing Coordinators

FROM: Dr. Robert J. Franciosi
Deputy Associate Superintendent

DATE: September 10, 2007

SUBJECT: **IMPORTANT. 2007 AZ LEARNS Achievement Profiles.**
(REF: RE07007-E)

This memo is to inform you of the updated timeline for the release of AZ LEARNS achievement profiles, and other important information regarding 2007 profiles.

I. Timeline for the release of the AZ LEARNS profiles. Below is the timeline for the release of AZ LEARNS profiles.

Embargoed release of AZ LEARNS profiles to schools:	September 11, 2007
Open of appeals window for AZ LEARNS profiles:	September 11, 2007
Closing of appeals window for AZ LEARNS profiles:	September 21, 2007
Public release of final AZ LEARNS profiles:	October 15, 2007

II. Data corrections for AYP and AMAO evaluations. All student information in the testing file is updated by matching test records to SAIS. The most important step you can take to ensure that the data used in the evaluation is correct is to have correct SAIS IDs associated with the test records. Correcting SAIS IDs can be done through the SAIS ID correction application available through the "AZ LEARNS / Adequate Yearly Progress (NCLB)" link on the common logon. In the event you need to correct prior year data for ELL Assessments, ELL Participation and Student Enrollment/Withdrawal Dates in SAIS, you must submit a Data Corrections Request Form available online at <http://www.ade.az.gov/azlearns/DCRAZLEARNNS2007.pdf>. Complete the form and fax it to Research and Evaluation at (602) 364-0887. You will be informed when the window has been opened. You do **not** have to submit this form if you are **not** correcting information in SAIS. Statistical appeals will not be granted if the underlying data is not corrected. In order for the statistical appeal to be processed, the data correction request form has to be filed with Research and Evaluation by **5pm on September 19th, 2007** and the updated data must be submitted to SAIS by **5pm on September 21st, 2007**.

III. Appeal of writing scores. Due to anomalies in scoring of the 2006 writing portion of the AIMS DPA, schools serving grades three through eight will have the option to appeal the status and growth points earned in their profile. Schools may appeal to be held harmless from any adverse impact by requesting that their profile be recalculated using the total points earned in 2005 for status and growth in writing.

Example. School A serves grades K-5. Below are the status/growth points earned by the school in writing for 2005 and 2007.

Grade	2005	2007
3	3.3	2.3
4	3	3
5	4.7	3.7
Average	3.7	3

In 2005 the school earned 3.7 points from writing. This year the school is earning 3 points on its preliminary profile. Upon appeal, the school's final profile for 2007 will be calculated using 3.7 points rather than 3.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- This appeal is only available for grades 3-8.
- This appeal will only be granted at the level of total points earned, not for individual grades.
- This appeal is only for the status/growth portion of the formula. Any impact of scoring on the percent of students exceeding has already been accounted for. See Section V. below.

IV. Performance on AZELLA. As required by state law and approved by the Board of Education, the performance of students on the AZELLA is now part of the AZ LEARNS profile. Schools will earn one point if 30 percent or more of their ELL students across all grades were reclassified as FEP in the 2006-07 school year.

V. Appeal of AYP determination. A school may appeal its AYP determination if it did not make AYP because of 1) the inclusion of ELL students; or 2) the exclusion of students with nonstandard modifications, and not making AYP adversely affected its AZ LEARNS profile.

- If a school appeals the inclusion of ELL students in its AYP determination, the determination will be recalculated with ELL students counting as tested but not included in the AMO calculation.
- If a school appeals the exclusion of students tested with alternate accommodations, the determination will be recalculated counting alternate accommodations for math as standard. Students having alternate accommodations for math will count as tested, and their score will be used in the AMO calculation. Students who took the reading test with alternate accommodations will still count as not having tested. This is consistent with the new policy approved by the Board of Education and submitted to U.S. ED for approval.

NOTE: This appeal will only affect AYP as it is included in the AZ LEARNS determination. It will **NOT** change a school's official AYP determination or school improvement status.

VI. Exclusion of ELL students. Starting in 2006, the number of years a student has spent in the ELL program is being counted from kindergarten. To retain consistency with previous years, students in third grade who have spent four years or less in the ELL program will not be included in the status/growth and z-score portions of the AZ LEARNS profile.

- VII. Z-scores for 2007.** The statewide means and standard deviations used to calculate the z-scores for the 2007 profiles are available on the ADE web site at <http://www.ade.az.gov/azlearns/>. They are unchanged from the previous year.
- VIII. High School Re-tests.** The following rules will be used for the test scores of high school students who retake the test.
- For the status and growth measures, the profile will use the highest of the fall or spring test earned each year by the student at a school.
 - For the current-year z-score, the profile will use the highest of the fall or spring test earned each year by the student at a school.
 - For the three-year-average z-score, the profile will use the highest score earned at the school.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Research and Evaluation at 602-542-5151 or email achieve@azed.gov.