



Arizona Department of Education
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MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Dr. Robert J. Franciosi
Deputy Associate Superintendent

DATE: April 5, 2006

SUBJECT: **IMPORTANT. Deadlines/Timetable for 2006 Achievement Profiles and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) evaluations.**
(REF# RE-06003-E)

This memo is to inform you of the timetable for the release of:

- Aggregate AIMS test scores;
- AZ LEARNS Achievement Profiles for schools;
- Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) evaluations for schools, districts, and charter holders;

and to advise you of other important dates for this year's accountability season, including deadlines for appeals and the application for alternative school status.

There have been several important changes to the evaluation and appeals timeline and procedure that you should be aware of:

- **Separate process for data correction and statistical appeals of graduation and dropout rates.** The window for data correction and statistical appeals for the graduation and dropout rates for AZ LEARNS and AYP will be open at a separate, earlier time than appeals for other parts of the formula. Substantive appeals for the graduation and dropout rates will be considered during the regular appeals window.
- **New deadlines for data corrections for statistical appeals.** Please be aware of the deadlines for submission of 15-915 requests and data for statistical appeals that require correction of SAIS information.
- **Open window for application for alternative school status.** As of the date of this memo, the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) will be accepting applications for alternative school status for the 2006 AZ LEARNS evaluations. The deadline for applications is given below. For a description of the criteria a school needs to meet to be deemed an alternative school, and the method used to calculate an achievement profile for alternative schools please read the AZ LEARNS Technical Manual available at the following page of the ADE web site:
http://www.ade.az.gov/azlearns/AZLEARNS_Technical_Manual_2004_Vol1_070105.pdf

Schools wishing to apply for alternative school status must submit an application letter and supporting evidence to the ADE at achieve@azed.gov. Supporting evidence should consist of documentation such as mission statements, charters, and public information indicating that it is the school's sole mission to serve students listed in the definition. Schools already granted alternative status need not reapply. Schools may apply to have their alternative status revoked.

NOTE. Aggregate test results in any form, including summary results for the graduating class of 2006; preliminary AZ LEARNS profiles; and preliminary AYP evaluations are embargoed and are not to be shared with the public until the public release by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE). This information may be shared with staff only on a need-to-know basis. Test score results for individual students may be shared with the students, parents, teachers, and other staff in order to make educational decisions related to specific students.

Release Dates

The ADE will release information to schools, districts, and the public on the dates provided below.

Embargoed release to districts/schools		Public release	
AIMS, AIMS DPA, and TerraNova scores available via the ADE Common Logon.	June 14, 2006	AIMS, AIMS DPA, and TerraNova scores.	July 12, 2006
Preliminary AYP evaluations for all schools and districts.	July 31, 2006	Final AYP evaluations for all schools and districts.	September 1, 2006
Preliminary Title III AMAO evaluations for all schools and districts.	July 31, 2006	Final Title III AMAO evaluations for all schools and districts.	September 1, 2006
Preliminary AZ LEARNS Achievement Profiles for all schools.	September 11, 2006	Final AZ LEARNS Achievement Profiles for all schools	October 16, 2006

Deadlines for the Submission of Information

Following are the deadlines for the 2006 appeals process for AZ LEARNS and AYP. All deadlines are for 5 p.m.

Data Collection or Application	Opening Date	Closing Date
AYP statistical appeals for the four-year graduation rate.	May 8, 2006	June 29, 2006
AYP statistical and substantive appeals.	July 31, 2006	August 11, 2006
Submission of 15-915 letters for AYP statistical appeals	NA	August 4, 2006
Submission of data corrections for AYP statistical appeals	NA	August 11, 2006
Title III AMAO Appeals	July 31, 2006	August 11, 2006
AZ LEARNS statistical appeals for the five-year graduation rate and dropout rate	July 21, 2006	August 25, 2006
Submission of application for AZ LEARNS alternative schools status	NA	August 25, 2006
AZ LEARNS Statistical and Substantive Appeals	September 11, 2006	September 21, 2006

I appreciate your attention to these upcoming calendar events as well as your ongoing cooperation. Research and Evaluation will be providing you more detailed information, directions for completing applications, and reminders regarding each of the events outlined in this memo as they approach. Please be sure to share this information with district and school staff as necessary.

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