



MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Dr. Robert J. Franciosi
Deputy Associate Superintendent

DATE: March 10, 2008

SUBJECT: **IMPORTANT. Deadlines/Timetable for 2008 Test Results, Achievement Profiles, and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Evaluations.**
(REF: RE08002-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 schools status.

There are several important changes in the evaluation and appeals timelines and procedures that you should be aware of:

- **Early data correction and appeals.** Student counts for AYP; student program membership; graduation rates; and dropout rates will be made available by May 1, 2008. Please take the time to inspect your student information and ensure that program memberships, entry and exit dates, and withdrawal codes are correct and up to date before SAIS closes on June 30, 2008. No expedited process will be available to open SAIS for the correction of previous fiscal years' student information during the substantive appeals window. Schools will still be responsible for any and all changes to student information made before the final release of school evaluations.
- **Concurrent appeals and release of AZ LEARNS profiles and AYP evaluations.** Preliminary and final AZ LEARNS will be released on the same dates as the preliminary and final AYP evaluations. The appeals processes for AYP and AZ LEARNS will also have the same timelines; however, appeals will continue to be submitted via two separate applications.
- **Science Assessment.** The results of the science assessment will not be used for AYP or AZ LEARNS evaluations for this year.

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 2008 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 on the ADE web site (http://www.ade.az.gov/azlearns/PriorFYDocuments_azl.asp).

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 schools 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 2008; 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 13, 2008	AIMS, AIMS DPA, and TerraNova scores.	September 17, 2008
Preliminary AYP evaluations for all schools and districts.	August 1, 2008	Final AYP evaluations for all schools and districts.	August 29, 2008
Preliminary AZ LEARNS Achievement Profiles for all schools.	August 1, 2008	Final AZ LEARNS Achievement Profiles for all schools	August 29, 2008
Preliminary Title III AMAO evaluations for all schools and districts.	August 1, 2008	Final Title III AMAO evaluations for all schools and districts.	August 29, 2008

Deadlines for the Submission of Information

Following are the deadlines for the 2008 appeals process for AZ LEARNS and AYP. All deadlines are for 4 p.m.

Data Collection or Application	Opening Date	Closing Date
Data correction/statistical appeals for graduation rates.	March 1, 2008	May 30, 2008
Data correction/statistical appeals for enrollment counts and program membership.	May 1, 2008	June 30, 2008
Data correction/statistical appeals for dropout rates.	May 1, 2008	June 30, 2008
Submission of correct SAIS IDs for student AIMS records for reading, writing, and math.	June 13, 2008	June 30, 2008
Submission of application for AZ LEARNS alternative schools status.	March 10, 2008	June 30, 2008
AYP substantive appeals.	August 1, 2008	August 13, 2008
AZ LEARNS substantive appeals.	August 1, 2008	August 13, 2008
Title III AMAO appeals.	August 1, 2008	August 13, 2008

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.