

A Parent Guide to Understanding Arizona's Statewide Assessments



Why are these assessments given?

Statewide Assessments show how well schools are teaching and how well students are learning. These assessments are aligned to Arizona's Academic Standards.

What are the different assessments my child may take?

- Arizona's Academic Standards Assessment (AASA) - English Language Arts and Math
- Arizona's Science Assessment (AzSCI) - Science
- ACT Aspire - English, Math, Reading, Science, Writing
- ACT - English, Math, Reading, Science, Writing
- Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) - English Language Arts, Math, Science (for eligible students)

Who takes these assessments?

Eligible Students in Grades 3-9 and 11

How are these assessments administered to students?

Tests are online. Students have access to universal and embedded tools and supports.

Accessibility Manuals:

<https://www.azed.gov/assessment/accessibility>

When are these assessments given?

These assessments are administered during the spring.

<https://www.azed.gov/sites/default/files/2022/05/Assessments%20Overview%202022-2023.pdf>

When are results available to schools?

Results are one piece of information schools use to support the learning of their students.

- AASA: On or before May 15 for Grade 3; on or before May 25 for Grades 4-8
- AZSCI May 26, 2023
- ACT Aspire: May 25
- ACT: 6-8 weeks after students participated in testing
- MSAA: August of each school year

Resources:

See assessment web pages for specific assessments:

<https://www.azed.gov/assessment>

Specific assessment infographics are posted on the assessment homepage.

Sample Tests:

AASA, AzSCI, ACT, ACT Aspire: <https://home.testnav.com> | MSAA: <https://www.msaaassessment.org/tap/sample-items>

Other Helpful Information and Resources

- All students will participate in Statewide Assessments (English Language Arts (ELA), Math, and Science). It is important that all students can show what they know and can do.
- Arizona does not have any exemptions from participating in these assessments. Statewide Assessments are required by State and Federal Law. (State Law: ARS 15-741; Federal Law: 34 CFR 200.2 *Participation in Assessments*).
- It is important for the state and schools to know if there are any gaps in their instruction and how to support all students. There are general assessments (AASA, AzSCI, ACT Aspire, and ACT) and alternate assessments for eligible students with significant cognitive disabilities (MSAA, which includes ELA, Math, and Science).

Alternate Assessments for students with significant cognitive disabilities

- Students with significant cognitive disabilities and an Individual Education Program (IEP) may be eligible to participate in an alternate assessment (MSAA). See Eligibility Criteria and Participation Guidelines: (https://www.azed.gov/sites/default/files/2020/10/Alternate%20Assessment%20Eligibility_May%202022.pdf)
- MSAA tests academic skills in reading, writing, math, and science. It is designed to have specific supports such as simplified language, pictures to support the reading passages, and statements reminding students what the question is about. (<https://www.azed.gov/sites/default/files/2020/10/MSAA%20Parent%20Brochure%202020.pdf>). This assessment is administered one-on-one (a teacher and the student). This assessment does not measure non-academic content such as life skills. Other Parent Resources: (https://www.azed.gov/sites/default/files/2021/07/2022_MSAA_Parent%20Guide%20G3_ADA.pdf)
- Universal Tools and Accommodations may be available for your child. See Statewide Accessibility Manuals: (<https://www.azed.gov/assessment/accessibility>)
- For all Statewide Assessments, only allowable accommodations identified in the Statewide Accessibility Manuals will be permitted.

*"Administering MSAA allows me to see my students do things I didn't think they could."
- Elementary School Special Education Teacher*

*"The format of the assessment was appropriate for this student's ability level."
- Special Education Teacher*

*I really appreciate how easily accessible the testing has become, how they can use different devices like smart boards and tablets, and how important it is to be able to pause the tests and take several sessions to finish each one."
- Special Education Teacher*



How can I help my child?

- Remind your child that you and their teacher want them to try their best and that you are there to help them every step of the way.
- Visit the sample tests websites.