



Achievement Assessments (AzM2 and AzSCI) Test Administration Talking Points – Spring 2021

The AzM2 is Arizona’s statewide assessment designed to meet federal and state requirements to measure proficiency of the English Language Arts and Mathematics Standards.

- The purpose of AzM2 is to measure student progress toward achievement of the grade level standards.
- The AzSCI Field Test is Arizona’s statewide assessment designed to meet federal and state requirements to identify valid and reliable test items that will measure proficiency of the newly adopted Science Standards.

Districts/Charters should communicate the requirements for statewide testing and the safety protocols in place to safely administer the AzM2 and AzSCI assessments. ADE acknowledges that the Spring 2021 Test Administration may be challenging for some families and ADE has provided LEAs guidance on how to document parent concerns regarding in-person testing.

The AzM2 must be administered in-person to all students enrolled in grades 3 – 8 and grade 10 (Cohort 2023). AzSCI must be administered to all students enrolled in grades 5, 8, and 11 (Cohort 2022). This includes all students who attend school at the building site and all students who are learning virtually (distance learning, online learning, hybrid models). ADE does not have any testing exemptions as these requirements are clearly outlined in State laws and Federal requirements.

- AzM2 provides information to parents, teachers, and schools to understand their students’ progress on grade level content material.
- The AzM2 assessment gives information to schools and teachers that help them determine if instruction needs to be adjusted so that students can succeed in learning Reading, Writing, Language, and Mathematics.
- The AzM2 and AzSCI test delivery systems provide a range of accessibility tools and accommodations for reducing barriers to accessing test content for virtually all students.

Test Scheduling and Test Administration

The AzM2 and AzSCI assessments are administered in person by a trained Test Administrator. Precautions should be taken to ensure the tests can be administered safely. A document has been provided to Achievement District Test Coordinators (DTCs) with suggestions from other DTCs who have found creative ways to provide a safe environment for testing.

[Creative Solutions for Administering Statewide Assessments](#)

- ADE cannot move forward in Spring 2021 with remote testing/proctoring. There were many considerations involved when making this determination including test security, validity of results, training, equity, and access.
- AzM2 and AzSCI are administered by section or test session and schools have the flexibility to schedule more sections in a day if needed. If you schedule more than one test session, you must provide a break for students of 30 minutes or more between sessions.
- For Spring 2021 Test Administration only, you may choose to schedule a Math session on the same day you administer Writing. You must provide a break for students of 30 minutes or more between sessions.
- Schools also have the flexibility this year to administer tests outside of the typical school day and week to reduce the number of students testing at one time. District Test Coordinators are asked to complete this form if you schedule testing outside of your school day and submit to ADE for approval.

[Spring 2021 Testing Outside of School Day](#)

Working with Parents

Please work with your schools to provide students an appropriate testing environment. This may look differently at your school depending on the staff available and amount of space.

- Provide testing information to parents/guardians through various communication modes – newsletters, email, district website, phone calls, etc.
- Create a plan for safely testing students with specific health risks and/or family members with health risks.
- Speak individually to those parents who continue to express concern about testing or state their refusal to test. Identify their specific concern(s) and ways you might be able to work together.
- Retain a log of all communication attempts with parents/guardians.
- Follow your district/charter Governing Board policies and procedures.