

The Arizona A-F Accountability System

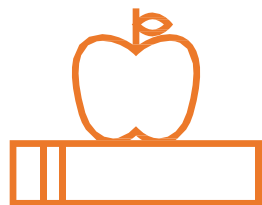


A New System to Empower
Schools, Students, and Parents

Media Kit



Arizona State Board of Education
Fostering Excellence in Public Education



What is Arizona's A-F Accountability System?

The A-F Accountability System is designed to empower schools to achieve and increase student success in Arizona. It provides schools with feedback on what areas they are excelling and in what areas they may need to focus on. It is a tool to help schools improve, parents to better understand what school is best for their child with empowering quantitative information when making school choices, and to help the state, policy makers and community leaders identify which schools are in need of support and how to better prioritize resources.





What is the purpose of the A-F Accountability System?

The A-F Accountability System is designed to empower all public elementary, middle and high schools in the state, and serves many purposes and efforts to achieve and increase student success in Arizona. The system:



Provides schools with quantitative feedback on what areas they are excelling in and what areas they need to focus on



Empowers parents with quantitative information when making school choices



Holds schools accountable





How We Got Here

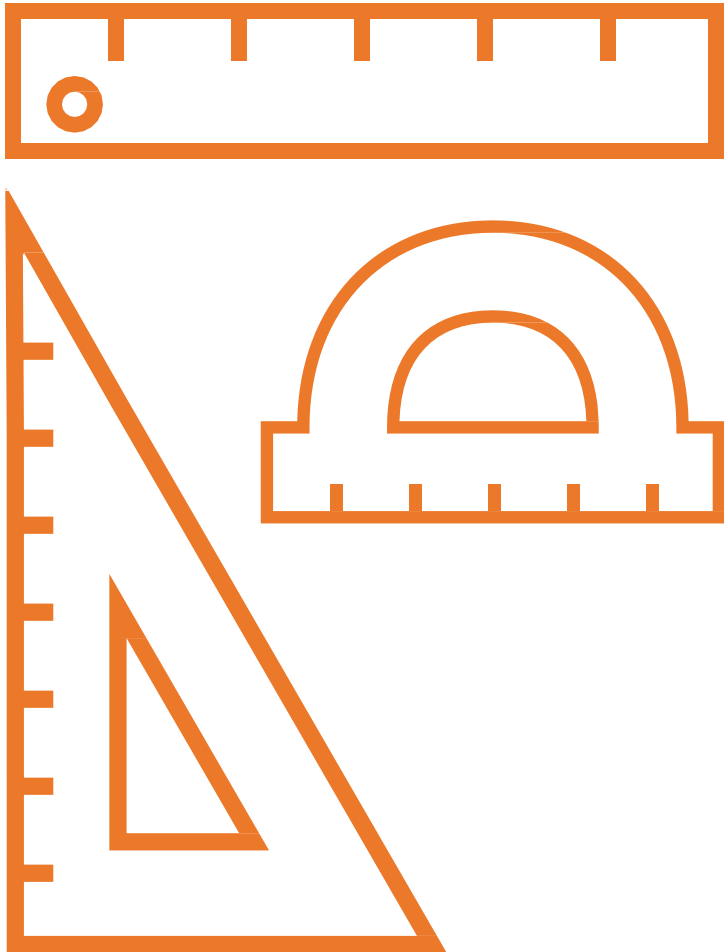
Arizona is required by federal law to measure school performance and is required by state law to do so through an A-F letter grade system. The State Board of Education was charged with developing a new system to comply with state and federal requirements while using the opportunity to measure the quality of a school and its effectiveness across a broader range of measures.

The State Board of Education appointed an ad hoc committee consisting of a range of stakeholders, utilized the expertise of the Arizona Department of Education and the Accountability Advisory Group and sought public input through 17 public hearings across the state and a survey that returned almost 1,700 responses. The new system relies less on the statewide assessment and utilizes a broader range of measures for a more accurate quantitative measurement of student and school wide achievement.



The following purposes were identified in adopting the A-F Accountability Plan:

- 1**
Fairness & equity
- 2**
Student-level focus
- 3**
Transparency, ease of understanding & ease of communication
- 4**
Incentives for action



The System Measurements

The system quantitatively measures student proficiency and annual growth in key areas as well as readiness to take the next step in their education or career. Specifically, schools annually earn a letter grade based on a range of comprehensive measures including:

- Proficiency in English Language Arts, Math and Science.
- Growth in English Language Arts and Math.
- Proficiency and Growth of English Language Learners.
- Graduation Rate.
- Acceleration and Readiness Measures, which consists of several measures including chronic absenteeism and the improved growth of subgroups (economically disadvantaged, special education, etc.).
- College and Career Readiness Indicators, which includes passing the ACT or SAT or earning an industry credential, certificate or license.



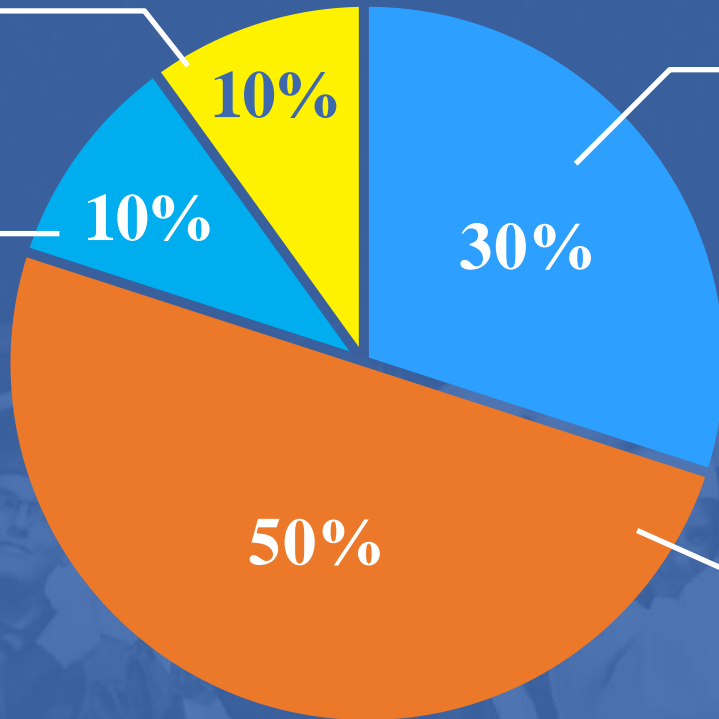


How the Grades are Calculated

For **K-8 schools**, the plan provides for multiple indicators weighted as follows:

English Language Learners' growth and proficiency at 10%

Acceleration and readiness measures at 10%



Student proficiency at 30%

Student growth at 50%





How the Grades are Calculated

The 9-12 plan provides for multiple indicators weighted as follows:

College and career readiness measures at 20%

20%

Student proficiency at 30%

30%

Graduation rate at 20%

20%

20%

Student growth at 20%

English Language Learners' growth and proficiency at 10%

10%





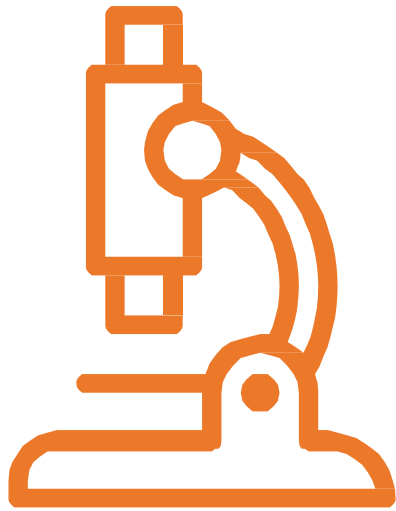
What Does Each Letter Grade Mean?

Annually every elementary, middle and high school will receive a letter grade.

Descriptions of the grades are as follows:



- A** Excellent
- B** Highly Performing
- C** Performing
- D** Minimally Performing
- F** Failing



The Difference Between Quantitative Data and Qualitative Data

The new A-F Accountability System assesses **Quantitative Data**, such as test results and graduation results that are measurable.

Qualitative Data, such as different awards earned, quality of music programs, PTA involvement, etc. is subjective, so it is not included in this system, but is part of the larger picture when evaluating which school is right for individual students.





Arizona's A-F System Has Earned National Honors

At least 17 states currently utilize an A-F school grading system. Arizona's A-F Accountability System was recognized as a national leader in school accountability by the Thomas B. Fordham Institute for its clear labels, focus on all students, and fairness to all schools.





How to Get Involved

Whether you are a parent, community member or business leader, now is the time to get involved in education in Arizona. The new A-F Accountability System will help you do that by letting you know where schools might need additional support. While state-level support is important for schools, community involvement is vital to improving school achievement.





Additional Resources

For a full FAQs, please visit: <https://azsbe.az.gov/f-school-letter-grades>

A complete breakdown of the calculations may be found at <https://azsbe.az.gov/f-school-letter-grades>

Previous school letter grades may be found at: www.azed.gov/accountability-research/reportcards/

How Arizona ranks in comparison to other states that have adopted an A-F rating system: www.edexcellence.net/publications/rating-the-ratings