



Assessment RFP Update

March 2022

Progress Toward New State Assessment

Why change now?

- Grades 3-10 ACT Aspire Assessment in its current form, will no longer be available to Arkansas after 2023.
- ACT has determined that no additional product development will occur on the ACT Aspire summative assessment.
- ACT has committed to provide the ACT Aspire summative assessment to Arkansas through the spring of 2023.



The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) through the support of the Office of State Procurement has completed the RFP process to select a new partner to develop, administer and report a new statewide summative assessment in place of ACT Aspire starting in the 2023-2024 school year.



Our process

Gather Input

- Educator and DESE focus groups
- Educator content subgroups
- Survey
- Family Feedback

Request for Proposal (RFP)

- Draft RFP requirements based on feedback, state needs and expert advice
- Committee review and selection
- Further discussions with DESE to finalize contract language

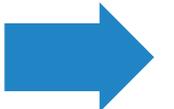
Operational

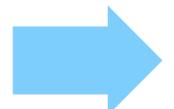
- April 2022 - begin work with chosen vendor and TAC to operationalize vision
- Summer 2022 - convene teacher committees to review items
- Fall 2023 - provide access to formative and interim assessment tools
- Spring 2024 - 1st summative administration

Stakeholder Input

 **3,344**
Survey responses

 **333**
Content subgroup participants

 **220**
Family Survey responses

 **76**
Assessment Focus Group Participants (District, Co-op, TAC and DESE)

RFP Process

- ▷ The Office of State Procurement (OSP) lead
- ▷ Proposals contained no identifying information
- ▷ Committee reviewed and scored initial written proposals and live interviews
- ▷ OSP calculated total score based on initial review, interview and cost to identify the most advantageous vendor
- ▷ DESE worked through OSP to negotiate final contract terms included value add features

Committees

Initial review committee was comprised of a diverse group:

- ▷ Elementary and Secondary Teachers
- ▷ District assistant superintendent of curriculum
- ▷ Educational Cooperative Representative
- ▷ DESE content and assessment specialists

DESE contract negotiations committee was comprised of:

- ▷ ELA, math, and science content specialists
- ▷ Assessment and Accountability specialists
- ▷ Assistant and Deputy Commissioners
- ▷ Suggested guidance from TAC





The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) through the support of the Office of State Procurement has determined that **Cambium Assessment Incorporated (CAI)** will be our new partner in developing, administering and reporting of a statewide summative assessment in ELA, math and science for grades 3-10.



Contract Requirements

- Design, develop and administer a valid and reliable **adaptive general summative assessment** in grades 3-10 for ELA, math, and science that is aligned to the Arkansas State Standards;
- Provide access to **interim assessments** to be used locally to support instructional planning and decision making;
- Provide students with **college and career readiness indicators**;
- Provide scores that contain **national comparisons of achievement**, and student growth measures including, Lexile and Quantile Levels;
- **Involve Arkansas educators** in the development of the assessment throughout all stages of design.
- Meet all **requirements of federal and state laws** pertaining to assessment and accountability.

Value-Add Features

- Access to the **formative assessment tool**, aligned item bank of item and item writing workshops for our educators;
- Joining an MOU with other states to **develop science items** that are aligned to our standards allowing Arkansas to continue assessing **science** annually in grades 3-10;
- Additional **security and score validation services** from a third party to strengthen Arkansas' Peer Review requirements to the US Department of Education;
- **Lexile and Quantile** measures on student reports;
- Access to summative **reports in six languages** (English, Arabic, Chinese, Marshallese, Russian, S'gaw Karen, Spanish, and Vietnamese);
- Parent access to ELPA21 reports in the **same parent portal** that will be used for summative reports;
- Additional **summative item writing workshops** utilizing AR educators;
- Additional asynchronous **Assessment Literacy Training** that can be utilized for the entirety of the contract.

Role of Assessment

Vision

The Arkansas Department of Education is transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education.

Mission

The Arkansas Department of Education provides leadership, support, and service to schools, districts, and communities so every student graduates prepared for college, career, and community engagement.

