

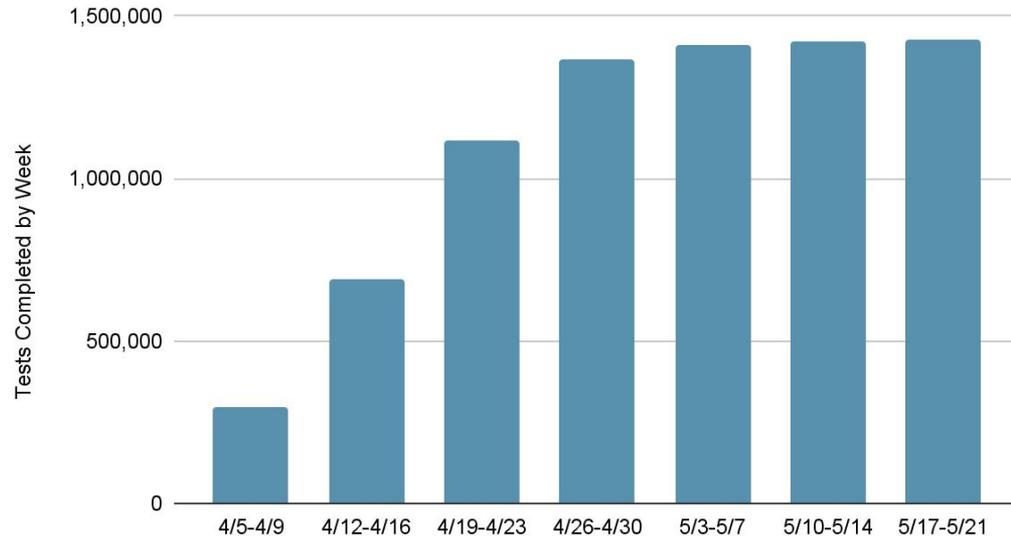
# Assessment Updates

ESSA Steering Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, September 21, 2021

# Tests Completed: Arkansas Spring 2021

4/5- 4/9	4/12- 4/16	4/19- 4/23	4/26-4/30	5/3- 5/7	5/10- 5/14	5/17- 5/21
296,015	691,608	1,118,647	1,363,707	1,412,637	1,423,496	1,428,970

Completed ACT Aspire Summative Assessments Grades 3-10\*



\* Note: The number of tests completed include the sum of English, reading, math, science, and writing assessments per student, and are cumulative over time.

# State Participation

While the 2020-2021 academic year was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, approximately 97% of Arkansas students in grades 3-10 were tested in each subject on the ACT Aspire assessment.

# Progress Toward New State Assessment

## Why change now?

- Grades 3-10 ACT Aspire periodic assessment items are moving to a different platform.
- 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 if needed through the spring of 2023.
- The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has begun the process of researching statewide assessment options with the intent to administer the new statewide summative assessment by spring of 2023 in place of ACT Aspire.

# Stakeholder Input

## **Educator Focus Group**

- Lead by Denise Airola and Crystal Beshears from the Office of Innovation for Education (OIE), and Hope Worsham from DESE
- 54 educators were invited; 28 committed to participate

## **Meetings**

- July 9th – Overview of high-quality assessment and federal and state requirements; lay groundwork for the committee
- July 21 and 22 – Vendor presentations to identify qualities of state assessment that resonate with the group
- July 23 through August 30 – Content Sub-group meetings
- August 31 – Final meeting to synthesize all feedback and make final suggestions to DESE

# Stakeholder Input

## **Educator Content Sub-Groups**

- Lead by members of Educator Focus Group
- Teachers could join any of the subcommittees
  - 3-5 ELA, 3-5 math, 3-5 science, 6-8 ELA, 6-8 math, 6-8 science, 9-12 ELA, 9-12 math or 9-12 science

## **Meetings**

- Held between July 23 and August 30
- 361 Educators participated
- 85 districts and 11 Educational Co-ops represented

## **Statewide Survey**

- Released via Commissioner's Memo: 8/9/2021 - 8/27/2021
- More than 3,000 submissions

# Priorities Based on Early Feedback

- Alignment to Arkansas Academic Standards
- Arkansas educator participation in test development process
- Greater transparency in design and scoring
- Aligned system that provides instructional support

# Next Steps

- OIE will provide a report to DESE in October summarizing the feedback
- DESE has begun the Request For Proposal (RFP) process, utilizing the feedback from stakeholders to inform requirements
  - Anticipate releasing the RFP this fall
  - Educators will be on the RFP review committee - application to be released soon
- Goal: a new assessment in place for 2022-2023 school year; may be 2023-2024 school year depending on the procurement timeline