

A-F Appeals: Adverse Testing Conditions

Created: October 2023



What is an adverse testing condition appeal?

- Definition: The disruption of student testing due to an extreme, unpredictable circumstance that negatively impacted student performance on the assessment. This may include: network failure, failure of heating/cooling system during testing, frozen equipment, disruption in school (e.g., drill, alarm, emergency).

Yes, SAIS ID's can be included

- However, student names, student diagnoses (IEP documents, chronic illness, etc.), and other personally identifiable information (PII) protected by FERPA should be removed.
- **All appeal applications and supporting documents are subject to public records requests.**
- If PII is not removed, the appeal application will be destroyed/deleted and the application will not be evaluated by the Committee or Board.
- You will be notified if Board staff finds PII in the application or supporting documents.
 - Barrier: When an appeal application is received with PII on November 14th or November 15th, it can be difficult for Board staff to review and communicate this, and for schools to re-submit, due to reduced timelines.
 - Cutoff is 5:00pm (MT) on November 15th



How do the Board and ADE review adverse testing condition appeals?

- 1) During the window the Board receives A-F appeals (letter grade release through November 15), ADE and the Board communicate daily.
- 2) The Board identifies adverse testing conditions appeals to request more information from ADE Assessment.
- 3) From there, ADE reviews any information received in a relevant SY22-23 testing window received from the school.
- 4) ADE shares their findings with the Board. The Board may request additional information from the school.
- 5) Once all information is gathered, the Committee evaluates the appeal.



How does the A-F Appeals Committee review adverse testing condition appeals?

The Committee reviews the information gathered and submitted by the school and considers the questions on the next slide.

The school may or may not be asked to appear for a question and answer session. These questions will be identified and provided prior to the appearance.

A-F Appeals Committee recommendations are provided to the Board for action at the December Board meeting.



Considerations A-F Appeals Committee Members make

- How does the timing of the adverse testing condition coincide with the testing calendar?
- What steps were taken to prevent or mitigate the adverse testing condition during the planning and execution of testing?
- What is the school's historical performance on assessments?
- Are the potential percentage points missed as a result of the adverse testing condition enough to impact the letter grade?
 - For example, if the school didn't earn 3 out of 10 possible EL proficiency and growth points due to issues in the Spring 2023 AZELLA testing window, but the school is too many percentage points away from the next letter grade with the inclusion of these points, the appeal would not, on its own, be approved, due to no impact on the overall letter grade.



General Example

During the Spring assessment window, the school's network was attacked by a hacker leading to network failure. The district's IT department made attempts (see supporting document) to bring the network online, however access was inconsistent and students were consistently locked out of the test.

Supporting Evidence:

- Communications with test proctors
- Network/IT professionals timeline of events
- ADE staff communications
- Previous A-F accountability results establishing trend in assessment data



Specific Example: K-8 School

During the state testing window, classrooms experienced excessive heat due to the failure of the school's cooling system. Portable coolers and facilities management were unable to regulate the temperature inside the building. Benchmark assessments showed progressive growth in ELA and Math not reflected on AASA.

Supporting Evidence:

- Timeline including screenshots of work orders, communications with test proctors, temperatures inside the building
 - Benchmark summary results

Outcome:

Approval



Contact Information

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