

Computer-Based Assessment

Why switch to a computer-based assessment?

Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards call for students to show deeper understanding and critical thinking skills. Computer-based assessments are better able to measure these skills than paper-based assessments.

Taking assessments on a computer has other benefits as well:

- interactive test items
- audio features
- flexible scheduling
- more timely feedback
- cost-effective
- greater accessibility features

How do I know if my school is ready for a computer-based assessment?

The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) will assist schools in evaluating their technical readiness for computer-based assessment. ADE has developed a technology readiness report to help in this process.

What if my school is not ready for a computer-based assessment?

For schools that are not yet ready to administer a computer-based assessment, a paper-based version will be available. Districts and charters may decide which of their schools have the resources to successfully administer the computer-based assessment.

What about students with disabilities and English Language Learners?

Computer-based assessments are designed with usability for all. This allows greater accessibility for all students, including those with special needs. Accommodations will also be available to address the needs of specific students. This means that a wider range of accessibility features will be available than ever before. Like with previous assessments, the features which are most appropriate will be based on a student's individual needs.

How can students prepare for computer-based assessments?

Fully implementing Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards is the best way that educators can prepare students for the new assessment.

Additionally, in order to help students become familiar with taking a computer-based assessment, several resources are available. Interactive [resources](#) are currently available on the ADE website. Computer-based practice items specific to AzMERIT will be available by February 2015.

