

Guide for Parents

Federal requirements for accountability in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (formerly known as No Child Left Behind) mandate that all students in grades 3–10 score proficient for language arts and mathematics by 2014. Districts and schools in Alaska must demonstrate Adequate Yearly Progress toward meeting that goal.

Summary

AYP is reported as part of ESEA/NCLB, a national education law. Alaska's AYP calculations are based on certain factors:

- Percentage of students meeting or exceeding state standards in language arts and math.
- Testing participation rate – all schools, districts and student groups must have at least 95 percent of their students take the designated state tests.
- Schools also must make the “other academic indicator” of average daily attendance or graduation rate.

Proficiency in language arts and math is determined by performance on Alaska Standards Based Assessment (grades 3 –10).

AYP is determined for:

- The Anchorage School District as a whole,
- Each individual school, and
- Student groups at each school within the district, if the group is large enough to be numerically significant including:
 - African American
 - Alaska Native & American Indian
 - Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
 - Caucasian
 - Hispanic
 - Multi-Ethnic
 - Economically Disadvantaged
 - Students with Disabilities
 - Limited English Proficiency

Consequences

- Schools that do not make AYP must notify parents and develop a school improvement plan.
- Extra services are offered to students if a Title I school continues in school improvement status for a second year.
- Schools receiving Title I funds that do not

make AYP three years in a row must offer students the choice to transfer to another school with paid transportation.

- The district must take corrective action in Title I schools not making AYP for four years in a row. Corrective action could include changes in curriculum or school structure.
- Non-Title I schools that do not make AYP two years in a row continue to implement school improvement plans.
- A school is eligible to exit school improvement status if it makes AYP two years in a row.

District and school AYP designation information has been provided by the Anchorage School District Department of Assessment and Evaluation. Additional information about ESEA/NCLB and Adequate Yearly Progress is available on the federal website at www.nclb.gov, on the state's website at www.eed.state.ak.us and on the district's website at www.asdk12.org.

What happens if my child's school did not make AYP?

Parents should use the table inside to determine 1) if the school receives Title I funds; and 2) if the school is in a level below:

	Level 1	Level 2*	Level 3*	Level 4	Level 5
Title I schools only	SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN Your school needs to develop a “school improvement plan” to address ways to improve student achievement. Parents are urged to help develop the plan with staff. Please talk with your child's principal about how you can become involved.	School Improvement Plan + SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICES Your child may be eligible to receive extra help funded by the school district. Parents of eligible students will be notified by mail.	School Improvement Plan + Supplemental Services + SCHOOL CHOICE Your child may be eligible to attend another school with transportation provided by the district.	School Improvement Plan + Supplemental Services + School Choice + CORRECTIVE ACTION The district works with the school to take corrective action, such as curricular or structural change.	School Improvement Plan + Supplemental Services + School Choice + Corrective Action + RESTRUCTURING In year one, the district prepares a plan for alternative governance. In year two of restructuring, the district implements the plan.
Other	SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN				

*The Alaska Department of Education has approved ASD to offer supplemental services at Level 2 status and to move school choice to Level 3 status. ASD has also been approved to directly provide supplemental services to its students.

Glossary of Terms

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP):

Adequate Yearly Progress is the minimum level of improvement that school districts and schools must achieve each year as determined under the federal ESEA/NCLB guidelines.

Annual Measurable Objective (AMO):

The percentage of proficient students needed in order to obtain AYP.

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Lang. arts	77.18%	82.88%	88.58%
Math	66.09%	74.57%	83.05%

Beginning in 2010-11, AMO levels will rise each year until they reach 100 percent in 2013-14.

Percent Proficient: Set by the state, this is the percentage of students that must be proficient on exams each year to make AYP.

Proficiency: Proficiency is mastery or the ability to do something at grade level.

Title I: Title I provides federal funding for schools to help students who are behind academically or at risk of falling behind. Funding is based on the number of low-income children in a school, generally those eligible for the free lunch program.



ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Adequate Yearly Progress 2011



At the Anchorage School District, our mission is to educate all students for success in life. I truly believe we are doing that.

From a 5-year-old's first day of school to that walk across the graduation stage 13 years later, we are dedicated to helping develop our next generation.

Now, more than ever, our young people are leaving school with a high school diploma. Our graduation rate is near 72 percent, up from 62 percent just five years ago. We still have a long way to go but our efforts are working and this is good reason to celebrate.

However, we can't solely focus on our graduation rate. We must ensure that children in all grades are growing academically. Adequate Yearly Progress is just one of many data points and assessments we use to determine if progress is being made.

This year, 37 schools made AYP, as defined by federal standards, and 59 did not. We are disappointed that more schools did not make AYP this year, however the decline was somewhat expected because the qualification level increased this year. The threshold, called Annual Measurable Objective (AMO), is the percentage of proficient students each school must have in each subgroup in order to obtain AYP. This year, that bar increased language arts proficiency from 77.18 percent to 82.88 percent and math proficiency from 66.09 percent to

74.57 percent. Fewer schools making AYP this year is a trend that is seen nationwide and in Alaska. Some research shows that up to 85 percent of the nation's schools are deemed as not making AYP during the 2010–11 school year.

Despite the AYP tally, we saw growth in many schools and there are many success stories. For the first time, the Alaska State School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing made AYP and Whaley Center, a school for students with severe emotional and behavioral needs, met the AYP threshold in language arts. North Star Elementary, a Title I school that has a large economically disadvantaged population made AYP in both math and language arts for the first time as well. Also, where we placed intentional efforts, we saw progress. For example, in middle schools there was a focus on improving writing proficiency. Test results show overall improvements in student language arts scores in nine of 11 middle schools.

We know the community values our schools and our educators. We know that when families work in partnership with the schools, children do better. And we know that we need to catch students before they fall through the cracks. We need to provide them interventions appropriate to their needs and educational activities that will keep them engaged. This year, we will begin implementation of Response to Instruction (RTI) in all elementary schools, two middle and two high schools. RTI provides a system for all students to receive instruction based on their needs, whether it's those needing intervention, students who are right on track or those who require accelerated instruction. This system comes with student screening and monitoring tools to identify students' needs and to track the effectiveness of lesson plans and interventions.

Our measure of overall student progress is based on complete test results found in the annual Profile of Performance. That information will be presented to the school board in October. I encourage you to review this document and become informed about the quality of education that children in our community are receiving.

The bottom line is that we do have great schools, but we can—and must—do better. The district is lucky to have a school board committed to excellence for all students and focused on making them career and college ready.

I'm looking forward to this coming school year, honoring the accomplishments of our incoming seniors who are preparing to graduate, and welcoming the class of 2025.

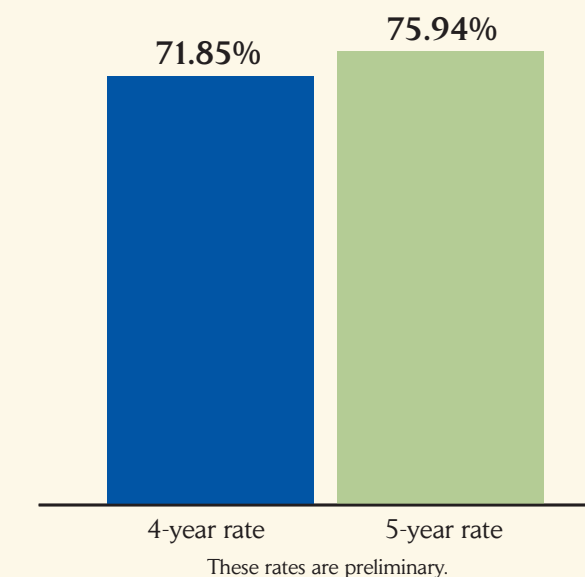
Most Sincerely,

Carol Comeau

Superintendent

Graduation rate

Beginning this year, the state is changing how it calculates the high school graduation rate. This establishes a uniform and accurate measure of the four-year high school graduation rate that is comparable across states. For the purposes of AYP, a five-year rate is also calculated. The 2010-11 school year establishes the baseline for future comparison.



TITLE 1 SCHOOLS ARE INDICATED IN BOLD BLUE TYPE

SCHOOL Adequate Yearly Progress?

SCHOOL	Adequate Yearly Progress?	Schoolwide	African-American	Alaska Native & American Indian	Asian Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	White	Hispanic	Multi-Ethnic	Economically Disadvantaged	Students with Disabilities	Limited English Proficiency
Abbot Loop	yes/Level 3	●●									
Airport Heights	no/Level 5	●●	●●					●●	●●	●●	●●
Alaska Native Cultural Charter School	yes										
Alaska State School for Deaf & Hard of Hearing	yes/Level 5										
Alpenglow	yes										
Aquarian Charter	yes										
Aurora	yes										
AVAIL	yes										
Bartlett High School	no/Level 5	●●	●●	●		●●	●●	●●	●●	●●	●●
Baxter	yes										
Bayshore	no/Level 1										
Bear Valley	yes										
Begich Middle School	no/Level 4	●●	●●	●		●●	●●	●●	●●	●●	●●
Benson Secondary School	yes/Level 5										
Birchwood ABC	no/Level 1										
Bowman	no/Level 5										
Campbell	no/Level 3										
Central Middle School of Science	no/Level 5	●●	●●	●		●●	●●	●●	●●	●●	●●
Chester Valley	no/Level 3	●●	●●								
Chinoak	no/Level 5	●●	●●	●		●●	●●	●●	●●	●●	●●
Chugach Optional	yes										
Chugiak Elementary	yes										
Chugiak High School	no/Level 5		●					●●	●●	●●	●●
Clark Middle School	no/Level 5	●●	●●	●●		●●	●●	●●	●●	●●	●●
College Gate	yes										
Continuation Program	no/Level 5	●									
Creekside Park	no/Level 1	●							●		
Crossroads	yes										
Denali Montessori	no/Level 4										
Dimond High School	no/Level 5	●	●			●		●●	●●	●●	●●
Eagle Academy Charter	yes										
Eagle River Elementary	yes										
Eagle River High School	no/Level 2	●				●					
East High School	no/Level 5	●●	●●	●		●●	●●	●●	●●	●●	●●
Fairview	no/Level 5	●●	●●	●		●●	●●	●●	●●	●●	●●
Family Partnership Charter	no/Level 5										
Fire Lake	yes										
Frontier Charter	no/Level 1	●								●	
Girdwood	yes										
Gladys Wood	no/Level 3										
Goldenvue Middle School	no/Level 4										
Government Hill	no/Level 2	●				●		●●	●●	●●	●●
Gruening Middle School	no/Level 5										
Hanshew Middle School	no/Level 5	●	●			●		●	●	●	●
Highland Tech Charter	no/Level 1	●●				●		●●	●●	●●	●●
Homestead	yes										
Huffman	yes										
Inlet View	yes										
Kasutun	no/Level 1										
Kincaid	yes										
Klatt	no/Level 2										
Lake Hood	no/Level 3										
Lake Otis	yes/Level 4										
McLaughlin Secondary School	yes/Level 5										
Mears Middle School	no/Level 5	●	●								
Mirror Lake Middle School	no/Level 3	●	●								
Mount Spurr	yes										
Mountain View	no/Level 3	●●						●●	●●	●●	●●
Muldoon	no/Level 4	●●						●●	●●	●●	●●
North Star	yes/Level 5		●								
Northern Lights A BC	yes										
Northwood ABC	no/Level 1										
Nunaka Valley	no/Level 1										
Ocean View	no/Level 1										
O'Malley	yes										
Orion	yes										
Polaris K-12 School	yes										
Ptarmigan	no/Level 5	●									●
Rabbit Creek	yes										
Ravenwood	yes										
Rilke Schule Charter	yes										
Rogers Park	no/Level 2										
Romig Middle School	no/Level 5	●	●			●		●●	●●	●●	●●
Russian Jack	no/Level 3	●						●	●	●	●
Sand Lake	no/Level 3										
SAVE High School	yes										
Scenic Park	no/Level 1										
Service High School	no/Level 5	●	●			●		●●	●●	●●	●●
South High School	no/Level 3										
Spring Hill	no/Level 4	●●	●●	●		●●	●●	●●	●●	●●	●●
Steller Secondary School	yes										
Susitna	no/Level 3	●									
Taku	no/Level 3	●									
Trailside	yes/Level 2										
Tudor	no/Level 1										
Turnagain	no/Level 2										
Tyson	no/Level 5	●●	●					●●	●●	●●	●●
Ursa Major	no/Level 1										
Ursa Minor	no/Level 1										
Wendler Middle School	no/Level 5	●●	●					●●	●●	●●	●●
West High School	no/Level 5	●●	●●					●●	●●	●●	●●
Whaley Center	no/Level 5	●●	●					●	●	●	●
Williwaw	no/Level 5	●●	●					●	●	●	●
Willow Crest	no/Level 5	●●	●					●●	●●	●●	●●
Winterberry Charter	yes										
Wonder Park	no/Level 3	●									●

For schools that did not make adequate yearly progress, areas needing improvement:

- Test 95% or better
- Language arts performance
- Mathematics performance
- Graduation/attendance rate

The data used in this report is preliminary only and has been provided by the State of Alaska's Department of Education and Early Development. Preliminary data is subject to change.