



Commissioner Roger Sampson
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Date: August 9, 2005

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News Media Advisory

School Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Lists To Be Announced *Statewide News Conference Scheduled for August 12 at 11 a.m.*

Education Commissioner Roger Sampson will release the state's list of schools that met and did not meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under the federal No Child Left Behind Act at a **news conference August 12 at 11 a.m. in the Atwood Building, 18th Floor Conference Room, Suite 1860, 550 West 7th Ave., Anchorage.** The news conference will be videoconferenced to the Fairbanks Governor's Office, 675 7th Ave., and the Permanent Fund Corporation, (Hugh Malone) Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Goldbelt Building, Juneau.

Reporters can also participate by teleconference at 1-800-315-6338, code 5071#.

The commissioner will release the list of schools. For schools that did not meet AYP targets, the list will note each school's standing (Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, Level 4, or Level 5). Sampson will also explain the AYP process and important changes used in calculating AYP this year.

Commissioner Sampson will explain the important information that AYP reveals about individual schools. He will also discuss how Alaskans can achieve better schools and improve student performance.

Ample time will be allotted for reporters to pose questions of Commissioner Sampson and Les Morse, Director of Assessment and Accountability for the Department of Education & Early Development.

A media kit will be distributed at the media conference sites. The media kit also will be available August 12 on the web at www.eed.state.ak.us under "Headlines". Click "Media Kit for Statewide AYP List Release."

A few facts about AYP:

- A school meets AYP targets when the students at a school achieve proficiency targets, or significantly reduces the percent of students not proficient, in reading, writing and math.
- Student proficiency is determined by student scores on the mandated Alaska Standardized Assessments in reading, writing and math and the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam. Scores from the reading and writing tests are combined into a single score and are reported as language arts.
- Schools will be designated as not making AYP if they miss annual proficiency targets, called Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) in language arts and math.
- For 2004-2005, AMOs are 57.61% of students proficient in math; 71.48% proficient in language arts.
- Schools can miss AYP for 31 reasons in 9 categories: students with limited English proficiency; students with disabilities; economically disadvantaged students; African-Americans; Alaska Natives; American Indians; Asian; Hispanics; and Caucasians.
- The entire school misses AYP if only a single category of students misses an AMO target, so schools cannot mask the performance of a single group.
- Schools can also miss AYP if they do not test at least 95% of their student body and 95% of each category of students. No group of students can be excluded from the AYP accountability system.
- A school must also meet attendance rate or graduation rate targets in order to make AYP.
- A school can also make AYP through a mechanism called “safe harbor” when the school does not meet an AMO. Safe harbor can be invoked when the school has a 10% decrease from the prior school year of students who score below proficient on an exam.
- Schools that do not meet AYP will be reported by AYP levels – for this year, Level 1 to Level 5. Level 1 means a school did not meet AYP for one year; Level 2, missed AYP for two years; Level 3, missed AYP for 3 years, and so forth.
- Excellent schools will be on the AYP list, as will poor performing schools. The list will tell only part of the story of a school’s effectiveness in teaching students. Alaskans will need to look deeper into each school’s performance to get a more complete understanding of that school’s effectiveness.

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