



**Commissioner Roger Sampson**  
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### **More Alaska districts are making adequate yearly progress**

Twenty-five of Alaska's 54 school districts made adequate yearly progress in the 2005-2006 school year under the federal No Child Left Behind Act, Alaska Education Commissioner Roger Sampson announced today.

That represents an increase of three school districts from the 2004-2005 school year.

The percentage of districts making adequate yearly progress rose from 40.7 percent in 2004-2005 to 46.2 percent in 2005-2006.

Additionally, three districts that had not been making adequate yearly progress for a number of years did so in 2005-2006. They are Kuspuk, Nenana and Tanana.

Two other districts, Copper River and Craig, successfully completed two years of making adequate yearly progress and were removed from the list of districts needing improvement.

"Districts are finding and implementing effective strategies to improve student performance, and they are getting excellent results," Commissioner Sampson said.

"The State Board of Education & Early Development believes that all Alaska students can meet our standards, but we recognize that this takes time. As instruction is aligned with the academic expectations that Alaska educators have set for each grade level, more students are scoring proficient on our state assessments," Commissioner Sampson said.

Districts are held accountable for adequate yearly progress (AYP) in the same way that individual schools are. Students in grades three through ten take state assessments in reading, writing and math. The reading and writing scores are combined into one language arts score.

Districts must meet targets in the percentage of students scoring proficient in language arts (71.48 percent) and math (57.61 percent), the percentage of students who participate in the assessments (95 percent), and their graduation rate (55.58 percent). The targets for 2005-2006 are given in parentheses.

In a provision known as "safe harbor," districts also can make AYP by reducing the percentage of nonproficient students by 10 percent.

Districts are held accountable for students as a whole and in nine subgroups: African American, Alaska Native/American Indian, Asian, Caucasian, Hispanic, multi-ethnic, economically disadvantaged, students with disabilities, and students with limited English proficiency. Districts are not held accountable separately for subgroups that are so small they would not yield reliable statistics.

The performance of districts in the 2005-2006 school year determines what level of improvement status they are placed in during the 2006-2007 school year and the consequences they face. See Alaska regulations at 4 AAC 06.835 and 4 AAC 06.840.

Currently, four districts are in Level 1, eight in Level 2, ten in Level 3, and eleven in Level 4. Those figures include three districts that did make AYP in 2005-2006. Districts must make AYP for two consecutive years to be removed from the list of districts in improvement status.

### **Consequences for Districts Receiving Title I, Part A (anti-poverty) Funds**

<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Alert:</b> Consult with the Department regarding reasons for not meeting AYP.
<b>Level 2 &amp; above</b>	<b>District Improvement:</b> District shall develop, issue and implement a district improvement plan, submit the plan to the Department, request technical assistance from the Department, and provide notice to parents. State may take corrective action at Level 3 or above. (4 AAC 06.840(h) and 06.850, NCLB 1116(c))
<b>Level 4</b>	<b>District Corrective Action:</b> Continue district improvement plan. Department must take at least one corrective action under NCLB 1116(c)(10)(C) and 4 AAC 06.840.

The AYP worksheets for each district have been posted on the department's web site at: <http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/assessment/accountability.html>. Look for 2006 and click on District AYP Worksheets.

The list of districts in improvement status is at: <http://www.eed.state.ak.us/nclb/SchoolImprovement.html>. Click on 2006-2007 District Improvement List.

This release was updated on September 1 to reflect that 25 districts made AYP, not 24 as originally reported. The status of Denali was changed after its graduation rate was recalculated.

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