

Roger Sampson

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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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More schools make adequate yearly progress in 2006-2007

A growing number of Alaska schools are meeting the “adequate yearly progress” targets of the federal No Child Left Behind Act, according to data released today by Alaska Education Commissioner Roger Sampson.

Under Alaska’s accountability system for NCLB, nearly all students in grades 3 through 10 take the state standards-based assessments in reading, writing and math. For NCLB, the reading and writing scores are combined into a language arts score.

Schools are held accountable for their student body as a whole and in nine subgroups of students for language arts and math, participation rate in taking assessments, and either a graduation rate or an attendance rate.

For the school year 2006-2007, 326 Alaska schools made adequate yearly progress (AYP) and 172 schools did not. The number of schools that made AYP in 2006-2007 is 19 more than the previous school year and 34 more than two years ago.

In percentage terms, schools making AYP have increased from 59 percent in 2004-2005 to nearly 62 percent in 2005-2006, and to 65.5 percent in 2006-2007.

“As Alaska educators focus on helping each student meet academic expectations, more students are scoring proficient on assessments and more schools are making adequate yearly progress toward the goal of all students being proficient,” Commissioner Sampson said. “The State Board of Education & Early Development believes that all students can meet the Alaska standards.”

Other positive indicators:

- Schools that do not make AYP are missing in fewer targets as the years go by. Nearly 72 percent of schools that did not make AYP in 2006-2007 missed only one or two of up to 31 possible targets.



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- The percentage of students scoring proficient increased in 20 of the 24 state standards-based assessments in 2006-2007 (reading, writing and math for grades 3-10) over the previous year.

Alaska's NCLB accountability system for 2006-2007 includes two new elements: 1) a growth method of measuring progress, and 2) a change in the "N size."

The growth method gives schools credit for students who are not proficient but who have made substantial improvement over their performance the previous year.

The N size is the minimum number of students a subgroup must have for its scores to be reported as a subgroup in the accountability system. Alaska's N size used to be 41 for two subgroups (students with disabilities and students who are limited English proficient) and 21 for the other seven subgroups. It is now a uniform 26 for all nine subgroups.

A complete packet of information about AYP 2007 will be available at www.eed.state.ak.us. Look under Headlines beginning at 9 a.m. August 9, 2007.

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