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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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More Schools in 2009-2010 Made Adequate Yearly Progress

JUNEAU – In the 2009-2010 school year, nearly six out of 10 Alaska public schools made adequate yearly progress under the federal No Child Left Behind Act, marking an increase over the previous year, according to data released today by the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development.

Of 505 Alaska public schools, 302 schools – or 59.8 percent – made adequate yearly progress (AYP) in student proficiency under complex federal accountability rules. That represents an increase over the previous year of 3.6 percentage points.

Other positive results:

- Eighty schools that did not reach student-proficiency targets in the 2008-2009 school year have sufficiently improved to meet the targets in 2009-2010.
- In addition, 42 other schools that had struggled in the past have now made adequate yearly progress for two consecutive years and no longer face consequences under No Child Left Behind.

In the 2009-2010 school year, 8,229 students graduated from an Alaska public high school, an increase from 8,008 in 2008-2009 and a significant increase over 7,290 in 2003-2004. The statewide graduation rate remained at 67.5 percent in the 2009-2010 school year.

“It is great news that more students are proficient and more students are graduating. The goals of the Alaska Education Plan are that all students graduate and be prepared for career or college. The improvements that Alaska’s students and educators have demonstrated over the past year reflect the hard work that takes place daily in our schools,” said Alaska Education Commissioner Larry LeDoux. “At the same time, we fully recognize that many students are not yet proficient in core subjects and far too many do not graduate. The state is committed to working cooperatively with families and school districts to increase student achievement.”

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Under No Child Left Behind, schools must meet up to 31 targets to have made adequate yearly progress. Many schools just miss making adequate yearly progress by falling short in one or two targets. In the 2009-2010 school year, 69 schools missed one target, and 35 other schools missed in only two targets.

In the 2009-2010 school year, 85 percent of Alaska's schools met the language arts target for their student body as a whole; 89 percent met the math target; 98 percent met the target for student participation in assessments; and 91 percent met the targets for attendance or graduation rate.

The department's online information about this year's AYP data includes: a background explanation of NCLB's accountability system; a summary of the consequences for schools that do not make adequate yearly progress; a page of detailed AYP data for each of 505 schools; a list of schools that made adequate yearly progress; a list of schools that did not make adequate yearly progress; a summary of schools by school district, showing which targets were met and which were not met; and a PowerPoint presentation that summarizes this year's results. See www.eed.state.ak.us under Headlines.

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