



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Joseph B. Morton
 State Superintendent
 of Education

Alabama
 State Board
 of Education

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Governor Bob Riley
 President

**EIGHTY-TWO PERCENT OF ALABAMA SCHOOLS MAKE AYP
 WHILE INCREASING ANNUAL MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES**

State sees a decline in the number of high poverty schools identified as needing improvement

Randy McKinney
 District I
 President Pro Tem

Montgomery, Ala. — Reports released today by the Alabama Department of Education show that in its fourth year of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) implementation, most Alabama schools continue to increase student performance and move towards reaching the ultimate goal of 100 percent student proficiency as identified by the federal *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) law.

Betty Peters
 District II

This year, 1,117 of Alabama’s 1,358 schools achieved AYP status. In all, 82.25 percent of schools across Alabama met 100 percent of their goals to achieve AYP. Equally important, the state experienced a 70 percent reduction in the number of high poverty Title I schools identified as needing “school improvement.”

Stephanie W. Bell
 District III

Dr. Ethel H. Hall
 District IV
 Vice President
 Emerita

Governor Bob Riley, who serves as the state school Board president, commented “Alabama’s schools have made tremendous progress during the past few years. Just three years ago, only 23 percent of schools met all their yearly progress goals. This year, we’ve raised the bar and saw a sharp decrease in the number of schools designated as needing ‘school improvement.’ If we continue to expand proven programs like the Alabama Reading Initiative, Alabama Math, Science and Technology Initiative, and ACCESS distance learning, we’ll increase the quality of teaching and learning across the state.”

Ella B. Bell
 District V

David F. Byers, Jr.
 District VI
 Vice President

The 2007 results indicate that 1,039 schools achieved AYP for the second consecutive year compared to 674 schools last year, which is a 54 percent increase. These findings are significant because this year the percentage of students required to meet the proficiency rate was raised even higher. Alabama’s percentages within its proficiency goals will continue to be raised each year. The national target determined by the NCLB law is for all students to be proficient in reading and mathematics by 2014.

Sandra Ray
 District VII

Of the 241 Alabama schools that did not achieve 100 percent of their individual goals, 175 made 90-99.99 percent, 42 made 80-89.99 percent, eight made 70-79.99 percent, nine made 60-69.99 percent, and only seven schools statewide achieved less than 60 percent.

Dr. Mary Jane Caylor
 District VIII

State Superintendent of Education Joe Morton pointed out that more than 76 percent (or 184 schools) of the schools that did not make AYP in 2006-07 missed it by only one goal.

Joseph B. Morton
 Secretary and
 Executive Officer

“After five years, the U.S. Congress is now in the process of reauthorizing the *No Child Left Behind* law,” said Morton. “The state Board of Education and I have offered suggestions for improvement. One suggestion is to consider different consequences for schools based on the degree to which they miss AYP. That way, if a school misses AYP in just one area it is not treated the same as a school that misses it across the board.”

Morton noted that over 98 percent of Alabama’s schools would score an “A” or “B” under a traditional grading scale of 90-100 equals an A and 80-89 equals a B.

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Determining AYP status

AYP designations for Alabama schools and school systems are determined by student achievement and participation rates on the *Alabama Reading and Mathematics Test (ARMT)* – Grades 3-8, the *Alabama High School Graduation Exam (AHSGE)* – Grade 11, and the *Alabama Alternate Assessment (AAA)* – Grades 3-8 and 11.

The AYP status of schools and school systems is based on achievement on assessments of the state’s academic content standards, participation rates on these assessments, and meeting the Additional Academic Indicators (AAI) based on attendance rates for elementary and middle schools; and graduation rates for high schools.

Schools and systems are required to achieve 100% of their AYP goals

Each school and system is measured based on the performance of a variety of groups in their respective student populations. The NCLB law requires schools and systems to meet annual goals in the academic achievement of the overall student population and by student groups, including economic background, race/ethnicity, limited English proficiency, and special education. Depending on the student composition, a school will have a minimum of five goals up to as many as thirty-seven goals. Under the NCLB law, schools and systems must meet 100 percent of their respective annual goals in all student groups to be identified as having achieved AYP. As a result, missing just one goal will prevent a school or system from making AYP.

School Improvement

If a school does not make AYP for two consecutive years in the same component (reading, mathematics, or AAI), the school enters School Improvement status. Those schools missing AYP for at least two consecutive years will receive specific training and technical assistance through the state Support Team, which will help schools analyze their assessment data and develop a Continuous Improvement Plan.

School Choice

Alabama evaluated 1,358 public schools for 2007-08 AYP status (based on 2006-07 data) – 856 are Title I schools (schools that receive Title I federal funding, the largest single federal funding source for education). This year, 89 of those Title I schools were identified for School Improvement compared to last year’s 294 schools. That’s a 70 percent decrease over last year. Also, there’s a 67 percent decrease in the number of schools identified for School Improvement when compared to last year (458 in 2006 vs. 153 in 2007). Of the 153 total schools identified for School Improvement statewide in 2007, 64 are non-Title I schools. That’s down 100 schools from 2006.

NCLB requires Title I schools identified for School Improvement in Year 1 and beyond to offer school choice to all students. Title I schools identified for School Improvement in Year 2 and beyond are required to continue the school choice option to all students and provide supplemental educational services (SES) to students eligible for free/reduced meals. Non-Title I schools may offer the same provisions, but are not required to because of cost factors. Parents may contact their local school system’s central office for assistance.

Accountability assessment results and a listing of all schools, including their respective AYP and School Improvement status can be found on the Alabama Department of Education’s Web site at www.alsde.edu under “Accountability Reporting.”

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