

July 29, 2004

To: Chief School Administrators
Charter School Lead Persons
School Principals

Important!
2003 AYP Final Results

From: Isaac Bryant, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Student Services

Subject: Final Adequate Yearly Progress Status for Grades 4, 8, and 11 under the
No Child Left Behind Accountability Requirements - 2003

In the Fall of 2003, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) sent you preliminary adequate yearly progress (AYP) data (*Preliminary Accountability Status Reports: 2003*) for the school(s) in your district, as required under the *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) accountability standards. Based on the data, schools that did not meet the 2003 accountability standards, that is, did not meet AYP, were sent confirmation of their status. Since those notifications were issued, final 2003 AYP data, including state assessment results, attendance rate/drop-out rate, and the Alternate Proficiency Assessment (APA) results, have been analyzed. (For the NJASK 4, not all APA results were available for inclusion in the final report.)

Final AYP status, in total and disaggregated by subgroup, is shown in the attached *Final Adequate Yearly Progress Status Under No Child Left Behind Accountability Requirements: 2003* report(s). These final reports are being issued for all schools in your district that participated in the grades 4, 8, and 11 state assessments. The reports indicate which schools met AYP for 2003 and which did not. (The reports for schools currently identified as “in need of improvement” are not attached; these will be sent under separate cover.)

Please note that the status of some schools may have changed due to the final data analyses:

- Schools that did not meet AYP on the preliminary report may have met AYP on the final report.
- Schools that met AYP on the preliminary report (so did not receive the prior notification from the NJDOE) may not have met AYP on the final report.

The attached school reports show the number of indicators met out of the 41 required under the Single Accountability System. In the table listing all 41 indicators, a “yes” identifies which indicators were met, a “no” identifies those that were not met, and a dash (-) indicates the subgroup was not analyzed due to no students or the small number of students in that subgroup. The attached document *Key Points* provides specific information about the reports. The assessment data, in percentages, that support these AYP profile results for each school will be posted on the *NCLB Report Card – 2003*, which can then be accessed at: <http://education.state.nj.us/rc/>.

The NCLB data conditions used for AYP calculations have been applied to the 2003 state assessment data. Specific information about the NCLB Accountability System can be found in the *New Jersey Accountability Workbook* at: <http://www.nj.gov/njded/grants/nclb/workbookcover.htm> and the document *Understanding Accountability in New Jersey* at the following Web site: <http://www.nj.gov/njded/grants/nclb/guidance/understanding.pdf>.

If after reviewing the final status report and the data for your school(s), you believe the data used are in error, you may submit an appeal to the NJDOE. Appeals may be filed based on a statistical error or other substantive reasons by submitting the following:

- The attached Data Appeal form.
- A letter that clearly identifies the reasons for the appeal.
- Corrected data with the source.

The NJDOE will be issuing information to the media and to the general public about the NCLB accountability requirements for the three assessment grades. At that time, a list of schools that did not meet 100% of the indicators will be released. The assessment data and the status report are considered public information and should be shared with your staff, board of education, and constituents.

Preliminary assessment data for 2004 are currently being analyzed by the NJDOE. School AYP reports based on these preliminary 2004 assessment data will be disseminated to districts and schools within a few weeks. In the meantime, districts shall identify schools that did not meet AYP for two consecutive years (2003 and 2004) using the best available 2004 state assessment data and consider them as schools “in need of improvement,” as defined in NCLB requirements. These identified schools shall, not later than the first day of the school year, provide parents with options (school choice/supplemental educational services) for all children attending those schools. (See 2005 NCLB application at www.nj.gov/njded/grants/entitlement/nclb/nclbparallelpaperappforms.doc.) The NJDOE will be scheduling specific training sessions in September 2004 for districts with schools that did not meet their AYP.

In addition to attached school-specific AYP calculations, the NJDOE will be determining districtwide AYP. More information will be forthcoming to inform districts of these results.

Your continued commitment to ensure that all students in New Jersey meet high standards is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or need further information about the NCLB single accountability requirements, please contact Suzanne Ochse, director, Office of Title I Program Planning and Accountability at (609) 943-4283.

IB/SO/mlr

Attachments

c: Members, State Board of Education
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