

July 29, 2005

Attention!
2005 AYP Preliminary Results

To: Chief School Administrators
Charter School Lead Persons

From: Isaac R. Bryant, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Student Services

Subject: Preliminary 2005 Adequate Yearly Progress Status for Grades 3, 4, 8, and 11
under the *No Child Left Behind* Accountability Requirements

Preliminary 2005 adequate yearly progress (AYP) status is now available for New Jersey schools. The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) has calculated AYP based on the 2005 cycle 1 assessment results for NJ ASK 3, NJ ASK 4, GEPA, and HSPA and student test participation for grades 3, 4, 8, and 11, which was provided by the NJDOE Office of Evaluation and Assessment. Demographic data were obtained from information provided by the districts using the student test booklets. Any changes to student records plus Alternate Proficiency Assessment (APA) results will be reflected in the final 2005 AYP calculations.

Preliminary 2005 AYP status, in total and disaggregated by subgroup, as required by the *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) accountability standards, is presented on two reports: *Preliminary Adequate Yearly Progress Status Under No Child Left Behind Accountability Requirements: 2005* and *Preliminary Improvement Status Summary*. These preliminary reports, issued for all schools in your district that participated in the grades 3, 4, 8, and 11 state assessments, will be available to the public on August 10, 2005. To allow you time to study the reports prior to their public release, we have arranged for you to access them immediately on a secure NJDOE Web site.

The reports show the number of indicators met out of the 40 required under the New Jersey Single Accountability System. In the table listing all 40 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 (less than the minimum) in that subgroup. The minimum number required for a student subgroup to be considered is as follows:

For participation:	40 for all subgroups
For performance:	35 for students with disabilities subgroup

20 for all other subgroups

The secondary indicator is not included for the 2005 preliminary AYP calculations. It will be included in the final analysis.

The grade 3 NJ ASK results are now included in the 2005 AYP calculations. Grades 3 and 4 are aggregated and the “n” minimums are applied to the aggregate. Grade spans are aggregated only when they are housed in the same school. For more information about aggregation, refer to the Key Points document on the NJDOE Title I Web site at www.nj.gov/njded/title1/accountability.

Please note that the performance benchmarks for 2005 have been raised per the New Jersey accountability process. The following table identifies the percent of students required to meet proficiency standards in 2005.

Subject	Percent of Students Proficient		
	Grades 3 & 4 NJ ASK	Grade 8 GEPA	Grade 11 HSPA
Language Arts Literacy	75%	66%	79%
Mathematics	62%	49%	64%

Under NCLB, schools that missed AYP for one year, that is, for 2004 **or** 2005, are placed into “early warning” status. Schools that did not make AYP for two consecutive years in the same content area are identified as “schools in need of improvement.” Title I schools must implement federal sanctions in the 2005-2006 school year. There are parental notification requirements for schools in need of improvement. Parents must be notified prior to the start of school. Sample letters are posted on the NJDOE Title I Web site. More information regarding the requirements for schools in need of improvement is also posted on the Title I Web site.

Schools not making AYP for additional consecutive years must implement increasingly severe sanctions. Those Title I schools that have not made AYP for five consecutive years must begin planning for restructuring. A School Improvement Information Sheet that provides a summary of the requirements for Title I schools in improvement status is posted on the Title I Web site. The NJDOE will be scheduling technical assistance sessions for schools newly identified as in need of improvement, corrective action schools, and schools that must plan for restructuring.

The assessment data, school profiles, and the status summaries are considered public information and should be shared with your staff, board of education, and constituents. Since this information will not be released to the press until August 10, 2005, you will have time to notify your stakeholders and prepare a response for the public and press, should you receive inquiries.

If your documentation indicates that the NJDOE AYP determination for any of your schools is incorrect, you may submit an appeal within 30 days from the date of this letter, that is, **August 30, 2005**. Appeals received at the NJDOE after that date will NOT be considered. The appeal form is located on the Title I Web site.

Specific details about the NCLB Accountability System are available on the NJDOE Web site under Title I Accountability in the following documents:

- *New Jersey Accountability Workbook*
- *Understanding Accountability in New Jersey*
- *Preliminary Adequate Yearly Progress Status Under No Child Left Behind Accountability Requirements: 2005*
- *Preliminary Improvement Status Summary*
- *Key Points*
- *School Improvement Information Sheet*
- *2005 Preliminary AYP Appeal Form*
- *Parental Notification Requirements and Sample Letters*

If you have any questions about your preliminary AYP information or the accountability requirements, contact the Office of Title I Program Planning and Accountability by e-mail at title1@doe.state.nj.us. Questions will be answered promptly.

IRB/SO

Attachments

c: Members, State Board of Education
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