



NJDOE News

**For More Information Contact the Public Information Office:
Kathryn Forsyth, Director
609-292-1126**

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DOE Releases Final AYP Status and *NCLB* Report Card

The AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) status of 79 schools has changed because of final *No Child Left Behind Act* (*NCLB*) calculations for the 2006-2007 testing period, New Jersey Department of Education officials announced today.

Only ten schools saw a decline in status; the status of 69 schools improved as a result of the recalculation. A list of the schools and their preliminary and final status is [attached](#). The AYP status of all New Jersey schools can be viewed here <http://www.nj.gov/education/title1/accountability/ayp/0708/profiles/>.

Commissioner of Education Lucille E. Davy also announced that the 2006-07 *NCLB* Report Card is now available on line at <http://education.state.nj.us/rc/nclb07/index.html>. Elements in each school's *NCLB* Report Card entry include the school's AYP status; the percentage of the school's teachers who meet the *NCLB* "highly qualified" criteria; attendance and dropout data; and assessment data.

The federal law requires that information on states' compliance with the specific *NCLB* accountability and reporting requirements be made available to the public.

All of this information has been previously made available to the districts, and the data on the individual elements of the *NCLB* Report Card has been publicly released by the department at various times during the past 12 months. The *NCLB* Report Card is separate from the DOE Annual School Report Card, which is released in February each year and contains additional information on schools in the state.

NCLB requires that before the start of each school year, each state education department must release the list of schools and districts designated as being "in need of improvement" because they did not make AYP on the state tests administered in the spring. In order to meet this deadline, DOE uses preliminary calculations of students' scores to calculate the schools' and districts' status.

The results are re-calculated to include the scores of the alternate proficiency assessments (APAs) administered to students with the most severe disabilities (which are not multiple choice tests and must be scored by hand), other *NCLB* factors (such as attendance and drop-out rates) and appeals of designations by districts or schools. These recalculations produce the final status list.

This year, 31 schools that were initially thought to have missed making AYP and were placed on the preliminary "early warning" list did make it in the final analysis and have been removed from the "Schools In Need of Improvement" (SINI) list.

Three schools that had been in Year 2 status or higher – Bangs Avenue School in Asbury Park, Joseph E. Soehl Middle School in Linden and Essex County Vocational-Technical School (West Caldwell) – were determined to have made AYP for the second straight year under the recalculation and have been removed from the list. (Note: Bangs Avenue School is temporarily closed because of facilities issues.)

Of the ten schools with downgraded status, seven had not previously been on the SINI list, but because they did not make AYP under the final analysis, they have been placed on the preliminary "early warning" list.

Under the final analysis, the number of schools that did not make AYP last year dropped from 627 (as announced in the preliminary results) to 586, and the number of schools on the SINI list (which does not include schools in "early warning" status) dropped to from 555 to 505. There were no changes to the "Districts In Need of Improvement" (DINI) list.

AYP/SINI/DINI Background:

Under *NCLB*, schools are labeled as "in need of improvement" when they miss one or more of 40 criteria on standardized tests for more than two years in a row. Districts are identified as "in need of improvement" if any of their subgroups of students miss AYP in a subject area in all grade spans for two years in a row.

AYP results are based on year-to-year comparisons of schools' scores in the HSPA (High School Proficiency Assessment) administered to 11th grade students, GEPA (Grade Eight Proficiency Assessment) and NJASK3/7 (New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge), administered to students in grades 3-7.

In order to achieve AYP, a school or district's students must meet both the proficiency targets and a 95 percent participation rate in math and language arts for each of ten subgroups and each of three grade spans (grades 3-5, grades 6-8 and grade 11), which include the total school population, students with disabilities, limited English proficiency (LEP) students, economically disadvantaged students and white, Hispanic, African American, Asian/Pacific Islander and American Indian/Native American students.

Schools and districts that receive Title I funding and are on the SINI or DINI lists face federal sanctions. As the schools and districts miss AYP in subsequent years, the sanctions become more stringent. Schools and districts that do not make AYP in their first year are deemed as "Early Warning" schools by the DOE but face no sanctions.

For more information on the content of this news release, please contact the Department of Education Public Information Office at (609) 292-1126.