



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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August 14, 2009

Attention!
2009 AYP for Schools with an
Elementary Grade Span

To: Chief School Administrators
Charter School Lead Persons

From: Barbara Gantwerk, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Student Services

Subject: Adequate Yearly Progress Status for Schools with and Elementary Grade Span under the *No Child Left Behind (NCLB)* Accountability Requirements

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) has requested permission from the United States Department of Education (USDE) to reset Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) starting points and Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) to accommodate the new state assessments administered this spring in grades 3 and 4. If approved, this request will allow for a transition period for the state to calculate the AYP status for schools that have an elementary grade span (grades 3, 4 and 5).

In the spring of 2009, the state introduced the new assessments for students in grades 3 and 4. These assessments, in both language arts literacy and mathematics, were redesigned to add additional rigor and better alignment to the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards. The NJDOE is now adjusting AYP starting points and AMOs in both content areas, still retaining the NCLB requirement of 100% student proficiency no later than the 2013-14 school year. Due to the timeframe of the test administration, the scoring and standards setting, the specific starting points and AMOs for the new assessments must be recalculated and submitted to the USDE for review and approval. This process impacts the NJDOE's ability to use the 2009 test results to determine the AYP status for schools with an elementary grade span prior to the start of the 2009-2010 school year.

As such, there is a transition period for the 2009-2010 school year. Schools with an elementary grade span that are currently identified as in need of improvement will continue to operate under their AYP status from last year. Schools with an elementary grade span will maintain their 2008-2009 status on the *NCLB* school improvement continuum. Title I schools in need of improvement must continue to implement the *NCLB* sanctions corresponding to their status. This includes the required notification to parents about the school's AYP status and the availability of school choice and supplemental educational services (SES), if applicable. Sample notification letters are available on the NJDOE web site.

NCLB regulations issued in October 2009 require that districts with Title I schools in need of improvement notify parents of the public school choice option no later than 14 calendar days before the beginning of the

school year. Ideally, districts are encouraged to notify parents of public school choice as early as possible, preferably 30 days before the start of the school year. During this transition, some schools containing the elementary grade span may be identified as schools in need of improvement after the results of the spring 2009 assessment are analyzed for AYP. The district must reserve a portion of the 20% public school choice set-aside to ensure that students in these schools may take advantage of the public school choice option.

The NJDOE anticipates that the USDE will render a decision on the State's new AMOs and AYP starting points after the start of the school year. Upon a decision from the USDE, the NJDOE will notify districts and schools of their AYP status using the results of the 2009 assessments. This notification is expected to occur by the end of October 2009. The calculation of the school's 2009-2010 AYP status and resulting placement on the *NCLB* school improvement continuum will be adjusted. Nonetheless, even if a school is no longer in need of improvement status, the district must continue to implement the choice and SES options, if parents selected these options. The attached document provides further details regarding the AYP transition period.

To verify the appropriate status of your school(s) for the start of this school year, you must use the Final 2008 AYP results that are posted on the NJDOE web site at (<http://www.nj.gov/education/title1/accountability/ayp/0809/profiles/>). These are presented in two reports under *Final Adequate Yearly Progress Status Under No Child Left Behind Accountability Requirements: 2008*.

Specific details about the *NCLB* Accountability System are available on the NJDOE web site at (www.nj.gov/education/title1/accountability/.) If you have any questions about the AYP transition period or the *NCLB* accountability requirements, contact the Office of Student Achievement and Accountability by e-mail at titleone@doe.state.nj.us. Questions will be answered promptly.

BG\SO\s:single accountability system/2009-2010\csa letter 2009 ayp transition

Attachment

c: Members, State Board of Education
Lucille E. Davy
Willa Spicer
John Hart
Senior Staff
Kathryn Forsyth
Suzanne Ochse
County Superintendents
LEE Group
Garden State Coalition of Schools

**2009-2010
AYP Transition Period for Schools with an Elementary Grade Span**

Schools not in status 2008-2009			
2008-2009 Status	2009-2010 Transition *	2009-2010 AYP Results To Be Issued October 31	
		Makes AYP	Does not Make AYP
Not in Status	Not in Status	Not in Status	Year 1

Schools in Early Warning status 2008-2009			
2008-2009 Status	2009-2010 Transition *	2009-2010 AYP Results To Be Issued October 31	
		Makes AYP	Does not Make AYP
Year 1	Year 1	Year 1-Hold	Year 2

Schools in need of improvement "hold" status 2008-2009 **			
2008-2009 Status	2009-2010 Transition *	2009-2010 AYP Results To Be Issued October 31	
		Makes AYP	Does not Make AYP
Year 1-Hold	Year 1-Hold	Not in Status	Year 1
Year 2-Hold	Year 2-Hold	Not in Status	Year 2
Year 3-Hold	Year 3-Hold	Not in Status	Year 3
Year 4-Hold	Year 4-Hold	Not in Status	Year 4
Year 5-Hold	Year 5-Hold	Not in Status	Year 5
Year 6-Hold	Year 6-Hold	Not in Status	Year 6
Year 7-Hold	Year 7-Hold	Not in Status	Year 7
Year 8-Hold	Year 8-Hold	Not in Status	Year 9

Schools in need of improvement full status (not on hold) in 2008-2009			
2008-2009 Status	2009-2010 Transition *	2009-2010 AYP Results To Be Issued October 31*	
		Makes AYP	Does not Make AYP
Year 2	Year 2	Year 2 Hold	Year 3
Year 3	Year 3	Year 3 Hold	Year 4
Year 4	Year 4	Year 4 Hold	Year 5
Year 5	Year 5	Year 5 Hold	Year 6
Year 6	Year 6	Year 6 Hold	Year 7
Year 7	Year 7	Year 7 Hold	Year 8
Year 8	Year 8	Year 8 Hold	Year 9

* The status of the school for parental notification prior to the start of the school year.

**** Title I sanctions of school choice and supplemental educational services implemented in September 2009 must continue throughout the 2009-2010 school year regardless of a change in status.**