



# Did You Know...?

# #14

## What No Child Left Behind Says About Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

*Parents Reaching Out connects with families, schools and communities in New Mexico. We offer information from many reliable sources. We thank the Parent Education Network, a project of Parents Helping Parents of Wyoming, Inc. for permitting us to share their Education Extras materials in this information series.*

"Adequate Yearly Progress" (AYP) is an individual state's measure of yearly progress toward achieving state academic standards. Adequate yearly progress is the minimum level of improvement that school districts and schools must achieve each year.

### How does AYP work?

1. First, states start by defining adequate yearly progress: the percentage of students who improve from scoring at the below basic or basic\* level to scoring at the proficient or advanced level, in a given year; to make sure that, by the end of 12 years of schooling, every student who graduates will have met the requirements of the state standards in language arts and mathematics.
2. Second, each state decides where to set the point at which all schools in the state begin measuring their students' improvement (based on calculations from the NM Public Education Department). This beginning point is based on the lowest achieving demographic group or based on a measure of the lowest-achieving schools in the state, whichever is higher.
3. Third, once the point at which to begin measuring student improvement is set, the state is required to raise the bar gradually to reach 100 percent proficiency at the end of 12 years-
4. Fourth, the point at which states begin measuring student improvement must be raised after two years, and at least once every three years after that. This should guarantee that every school would be trying to improve.
5. To make sure that states are fulfilling their commitment to AYP, each state must submit to the secretary of the U.S. Department of Education evidence describing its accountability system and show how it has included the AYP provisions required by law.



### **What happens if a school fails to show adequate yearly progress after two years?**

NCLB requires schools that do not make state-defined adequate yearly progress for two consecutive school years to be identified before the beginning of the next school year as a school "in need of improvement". School officials will receive immediate help and technical assistance to develop a two-year plan to improve the school. Every student in the school will be given the option to transfer to a better public school in the district or a public charter school. Parents will get options for their children, and districts will have ways to get children extra help.



### **What happens if a school fails to show adequate yearly progress for three consecutive years?**

After three consecutive years, if the school fails to show adequate yearly progress, the school status remains "in need of improvement" and the district must continue to offer public school choice for all students. The school must also provide supplemental education services to disadvantaged children who remain at the school. Parents will be allowed to choose the services their child needs from a list of approved providers.

### **What happens if a school fails to make adequate yearly progress for four consecutive years?**

If a school does not make AYP after four consecutive years, the district must put into operation certain corrective actions to improve the school. Such action may include replacing certain staff or fully implementing a new curriculum. The district must also continue to offer public school choice and pay for supplemental services.

### **What happens if a school fails to meet adequate yearly progress for five consecutive years?**

Should this happen, the school will be identified for restructuring. It would have to develop a plan and make arrangements to put into operation significant alternative authority such as state take over, the hiring of a private management contractor, converting to a charter school or significant staff restructuring.

During this entire time of getting help for the school, parents and students will get public school choice and supplemental services, so they will not be trapped in a failing school and risk being academically left behind. These consequences are for schools receiving Title I funding. Rewards and sanctions for non- Title I schools are currently being discussed by a state task force and legislative committee.

*For more information, please see **Did You Know #16** (Demystifying Adequate Yearly Progress).*

*"Did You Know...?" fact sheets are developed by Parents Reaching Out in collaboration with the New Mexico Public Education Department under a grant from the US Department of Education Office of Innovation and Improvement. Views expressed do not necessarily represent the policy of the US Department of Education and should not be assumed to be an endorsement by the Federal Government.*