



# Did You Know...?

# # 16

## Demystifying Adequate Yearly Progress

*What is Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)? Where do I find out if my child's school is passing? Who decides the goals and tests? When will I know if my child's school is passing or failing? These and many questions about AYP have arisen from latest test score releases. We hope the following will clear up some myths around Adequate Yearly Progress.*

### 1. What exactly is Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)?

In 2001, Congress reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) and called it "No Child Left Behind" (NCLB). Congress added some accountability to the law in order to insure consistency from school to school. This is called Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Each state has developed academic standards. AYP is an individual school's measure of yearly progress toward achieving state academic standards. Adequate Yearly Progress is the minimum level of achievement that school districts and schools must achieve each year towards state standards. (So you see NCLB is actually a law with a history and not a new law.)

### 2. What does AYP mean to my child?

AYP means that all children are taught to higher standards and the expectation is that the school will meet adequate yearly progress towards state standards each year.



### 3. What about all the testing that is happening at school?

The only real way to see if children are achieving at higher standards is to test them. What testing really means is students are being evaluated as to whether they are achieving state standards.

### 4. I often hear that students that receive special education services or English Language Learners are holding the school scores down, can you explain?

Students with disabilities and English Language Learners (ELL) test scores *do count* towards a school making AYP. The real myth is that nothing can be done about their scores. There are scientific research-proven methods to teach these students. As with all students these students deserve a high quality education. Think about what it means to us as a society, if ALL students do not receive a high quality education. It should be noted that many of the strategies used to teach students with disabilities and ELL students often benefit their peers in a very positive way.

5. *Where do I find out if my child's school is passing or failing?*

In New Mexico, the Public Education Department releases each school's report card at the end of summer before school starts. These report cards summaries are sometimes published in the newspaper and can be viewed by internet on the public education department's website: [www.ped.state.us/](http://www.ped.state.us/) Your child's school is required to inform you of their Report Card.

6. *Who decides what tests are to be used and how are they administered?*

The NM Public Education Department chooses which tests will be used for testing. The testing usually occurs in the spring and is given to children. These tests are based on New Mexico content standards. They, along with other factors like attendance rate and graduation rate, determine AYP results.

7. *What can I do as a family member if my child's school fails AYP?*

As a parent, you can request to be on the school's instructional council to help revise the schools Educational Plan for Student Success in order to improve student academic achievement.

***If a school fails to make AYP what is the timeline for improvement plans? (Please note in New Mexico we have a more rigorous timeline than NCLB requires.)***

Year 1 – AYP is not met – The school develops and files an Educational Plan for Student Success with the Public Education Department

Year 2 – AYP is not met (SI-1) School Improvement Year 1. The school must offer Public School Choice

Year 3 – AYP is not met (SI-2) School Improvement Year 2. Public School Choice and Supplemental Educational Services are offered. A family may choose either Public School Choice or Supplemental Educational Services.

Year 4 – AYP is not met – Corrective Action (CA) – School must now explain they are subject to corrective action, and must continue to offer supplemental services. The school is also subject to possible replacement of school staff, new curriculum, extend the school day or year or appoint an outside advisor to the school.

Year 5 – AYP is not met (R-1) – Restructuring School must now explain that it must develop a plan for alternative governing to be implemented the following year. Alternative governing can include; closing and reopening as a charter school, turning management of school over to a private organization or establishing a community based team to administer the school.

Year 6 – AYP is not met Restructuring Year 2 (R-2)

For more information, please see **Did You Know #14** (NCLB-Adequate Yearly Progress).

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