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More Schools Reach Federal Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Targets

Sixty-two percent of schools in Colorado made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets in 2010, up from 60 percent in 2009.

According to data released today by the Office of Federal Program Administration for the Colorado Department of Education, academic gains were also made by many schools currently on School Improvement.

Adequate Yearly Progress is a measurement defined under the federal No Child Left Behind Act that gauges academic performance for every school and district in the country.

Schools on Improvement are those that receive federal Title I funds but do not reach AYP targets in the same content area for two consecutive years.

Five schools which had been identified in 2009-2010 showed substantial academic progress and are no longer on School Improvement and another 54 schools on School Improvement status reached their AYP targets for the first time. If these 54 schools reach their AYP targets again next year, they will be removed from School Improvement status.

Last year, by comparison, only 17 schools on School Improvement status reached their AYP targets for the first time.

"The trend is upbeat and reflects extraordinary focus by principals and teachers at these schools," said Patrick Chapman, executive director of

the Office of Federal Program Administration for the Colorado Department of Education. "This is significant progress and we hope each school can take a moment to celebrate the positive strides. Congratulations go out to the staff and students in all these schools."

The five schools removed from the 2010 Improvement list are:

- Adventure Elementary (Mapleton Public Schools)
- North Elementary School (Brighton School District 27J)
- Centennial High School (Centennial School District)
- Wyatt-Edison Charter Middle School (Denver Public Schools)
- Highland Elementary School (Garfield School District Re-2)

The 54 schools are located in 23 districts: Adams School District 14, Adams County School District 50, Aurora Public Schools, Boulder Valley Schools, Canon City Schools, Cherry Creek Schools, Delta County Public Schools, Denver Public Schools, Eagle County Schools, Falcon School District 49, Morgan County School District Re-3, Greeley-Evans School District 6, Harrison School District 2, Jefferson County Schools, Mesa County Valley School District 51, Montezuma-Cortez School District RE-1, Platte Valley School District RE-7, Poudre School District, Roaring Fork School District, South Conejos School District, St. Vrain Valley School District, Summit School District and Weld County School District 8.

Consequences are attached to AYP determinations only if a school or district receives Title I funds (federal funds for supplemental education in reading and/or math). For each year on School Improvement, schools must meet a series of requirements that bring resources to the school or provide parents with more alternatives.

In 2010-2011, 201 schools have been identified for School Improvement out of 1,769 schools in the state. Following is a summary of the current schools that are on School Improvement:

- 83 schools are in Year 1 of School Improvement Status. (This means they missed AYP targets for two consecutive years.) These schools are required to develop School Improvement plans (using the Unified Improvement Plan for Schools), offer public school choice to their students and provide transportation to those schools of choice.
- 39 schools are in Year 2 of School Improvement Status (meaning they missed AYP targets for three years). These

schools must provide supplemental educational tutoring services in addition to the requirements listed above.

- 19 schools are on Corrective Action (missed AYP targets for four years). These schools must continue to provide transportation to other public schools of choice and offer supplemental educational tutoring services. They must also revise their Unified Improvement Plan and the district must take corrective steps.
- 13 schools are designated as Restructuring, Planning (missed AYP targets for five years). Local school districts must develop plans to restructure these schools.
- 47 schools are designated as Restructuring, Implementation (missed AYP targets for six years or more). These schools must implement restructuring plans.

CDE also calculates Adequate Yearly Progress for all districts in the state. In 2010, 48 percent of districts in Colorado made AYP (up from 46 percent in 2009). Seventy-eight percent of districts made at least 90 percent of their targets (the same as in 2009).

Eighty-six Colorado districts are on Program Improvement Status in 2010.

- 26 districts are identified for Title IA Program Improvement Status. (This means they missed AYP targets for two or three consecutive years at the same level and content area.) These districts are required to develop or revise an improvement plan that addresses the areas in which the district did not make AYP. To meet this requirement, districts in Colorado will complete the Unified Improvement Plan (www.schoolview.org/UnifiedImprovementPlanning.asp).
- 60 districts are in Corrective Action Status. (This means they missed AYP targets for four or more consecutive years at the same level and content area). For these districts, CDE is required to ensure that each district is provided with technical assistance as well as defer programmatic funds or reduce administrative funds until an approved Corrective Action plan is in place. The districts in Corrective Action also need to complete the Unified Improvement Plan.

A complete list of school and district AYP results, including the 54 schools that made AYP for the first year, is available on the CDE Web site at www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/danda/aypres.asp.

About Adequate Yearly Progress

Adequate Yearly Progress (or AYP) is a federal accountability measure for schools, districts and the state required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). NCLB requires AYP determinations to be made in reading, math and the graduation rate. The Colorado Department of Education sets the guidelines and targets for determining AYP. CDE uses the Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP), which includes Lectura (a Spanish-language test reading given to qualifying students in third and fourth grades), CSAPA (for students with significant cognitive disabilities) and graduation rates to provide districts with AYP calculations for all schools.

In Colorado, AYP measures the year-to-year changes in the percent of students scoring at least partially proficient on the state assessments against an annual target that increases from year to year until it reaches 100 percent by 2014. AYP calculations are made annually to track the progress schools and districts are making toward reaching this goal.

Targets are increased every three years. Targets during the 2009-2010 school year were the same as they were during the 2008-2009 school year. Districts and schools reach their AYP targets only when the student body as a whole and all disaggregated groups of students (by race, income, English language learners and students with special needs) meet the targets. Targets will increase again in the 2010-2011 school year.

To make AYP, schools and any disaggregated demographic group with 30 or more students must:

1. Meet the 95 percent participation requirement (95 percent of students enrolled in the school must take a state assessment).
2. Meet the math and reading performance targets, or decrease the percent of students scoring "unsatisfactory" by 10 percentage points from the prior year's percentage (also known as "Safe Harbor"). *Note:* Colorado provides an additional way for schools and districts to make AYP by using longitudinal data, called "Matched Safe Harbor." In order to

make AYP with Matched Safe Harbor, schools need to show a 10 percent reduction in the percentage of students scoring unsatisfactory when looking at the exact same students from one year to the next.

3. Meet the "Other Indicator" requirement. For elementary and middle school levels 1.21 percent of students must score "advanced" in reading and math. For high schools, this is a graduation rate of 63 percent or an increase of two percentage points from the prior year's graduation rate.

AYP is determined for the following disaggregated groups: white, Hispanic, black, Asian, Native American, economically disadvantaged students, English language learners, and students with disabilities (there must be 30 or more students in a group before it is accountable). Schools may be accountable for a maximum of 54 targets, depending upon the demographics of the student population.

The Colorado Growth Model, which provides a key component of the state's school accountability system and district accreditation under Senate Bill 09-163, is not used to measure AYP.

More information about how AYP is calculated and a complete list of school and district AYP determinations is available on the CDE Web site at www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/danda/ayp.asp

More information on Title I, including a list of Title I schools, is available on the CDE Web site at www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/ti/a.asp.

For more information, contact Mark Stevens, 303-866-3898, or Megan McDermott, 303-866-2334, in the CDE Office of Communications. To sign up for the CDE e-mail news service, please visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/index.html>.

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