

The federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law divides students into 10 groups that must make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) toward the NCLB goal of all children performing at grade level or above in reading/language arts and math by 2013-14. The student groups are: 1) the school as a whole (all students); 2) White; 3) Black; 4) Hispanic; 5) Native American; 6) Asian; 7) Multiracial; 8) economically disadvantaged students (students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch); 9) limited English proficient students; and 10) students with disabilities. Each student is represented in at least two groups – the school as a whole and her/his racial group.

Each student group must have at least 40 students across the tested grades to be included in AYP calculations at the school level. Most schools have several of the groups, but not all 10. A student must attend a school 140 days by the first day of Spring testing to be included in AYP calculations at the school level. Students who are part of groups smaller than 40 or who attend a school fewer than 140 days contribute to AYP calculations at the district level.

HOW DOES A SCHOOL MAKE AYP?

For a school to make AYP, each student group in the tested grades must meet proficiency targets in reading/language arts and math and each student group must have at least a 95% participation rate in the assessments for both subjects. This represents four targets (proficiency and participation in reading/language arts and math assessments) for each student group. In addition, the school as a whole must show progress on the attendance rate (grades 3-8) or the graduation rate (high schools or any school that graduates seniors). Detailed school AYP reports on the Web at <http://ayp.ncpublicschools.org> show school as a whole and student group performances.

WHAT ARE THE PROFICIENCY TARGETS?

Proficiency target goals changed in 2008, as reflected in the chart. Each target goal represents the percentage of students within each student group and the school as a whole that are expected to be performing at grade level in that subject as determined by state tests.

CAN A SCHOOL MAKE AYP IF ONE OF THE STUDENT GROUPS DOESN'T MEET ITS PROFICIENCY TARGET?

Yes. Through the use of safe harbor, the confidence interval, or the AYP growth standard a school still might be able to make AYP.

WHAT IS SAFE HARBOR?

If a student group meets the 95% participation rate but does not meet the proficiency target, the group can use a safe harbor provision to meet proficiency. The student group must show a 10% reduction in the percentage of students not proficient from the preceding year for the subject area and show progress in its attendance/graduation rate.

WHAT IS THE CONFIDENCE INTERVAL?

When a student group does not meet its proficiency target and does not meet safe harbor criteria, a confidence interval that allows for a margin of error is applied. So an elementary or middle school with a group that is 75% proficient in reading might make AYP, even though the target is 77.2%, when the confidence interval is applied.

WHAT IF A SCHOOL DOESN'T MAKE AYP?

If a Title I school doesn't make AYP in the same subject for two years in a row, the school must offer its students transfer option(s). After three years of not making AYP in the same subject, a Title I school must offer special tutoring services, known as supplemental educational services (SES), to economically disadvantaged students while continuing to offer transfer option(s) to all students. For districts participating in a federal SES pilot program, the options are reversed. Schools in these districts offer SES after not making AYP in the same subject for two years in a row and offer transfer options in the next year if they continue to not make AYP. Non-Title I schools in these situations must revise their school improvement plans, but don't have to offer transfer options or special tutoring services.

NC PROFICIENCY TARGET GOALS (Revised October 2008)

YEAR	GRADES 3-8 (%)		GRADES 10 (%)	
	Reading	Mathematics	Reading/ Language Arts	Mathematics
2007-08	43.2	77.2	38.5	68.4
2008-09	43.2	77.2	38.5	68.4
2009-10	43.2	77.2	38.5	68.4
2010-11	71.6	88.6	69.3	84.2
2011-12	71.6	88.6	69.3	84.2
2012-13	71.6	88.6	69.3	84.2
2013-14	100	100	100	100

For more information, access the Web at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/nclb/> or call the Communications Division at 919-807-3450



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