

AYP Status

Preliminary School and District AYP Reports

The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) has issued preliminary adequate yearly progress reports (AYP) for *all public schools and districts* for the 2011-2012 school year. These preliminary AYP reports have been posted on the NDDPI's STARS system, under the *2012 AYP Report*. Contact your district administrator if you don't have authority to access this report.

These preliminary school and district AYP reports have been generated according to the rules set forth within that state's accountability workbook, which was previously approved in 2011 and remains in effect. This is available at www.dpi.state.nd.us/grants/proposal2011.pdf.

Possible AYP Appeals of Data Discrepancy

If you have any questions concerning your AYP reports or if you wish to submit a formal written appeal of data discrepancy, please contact Heidi Berglund at hbergland@nd.gov or (701) 328-2317.

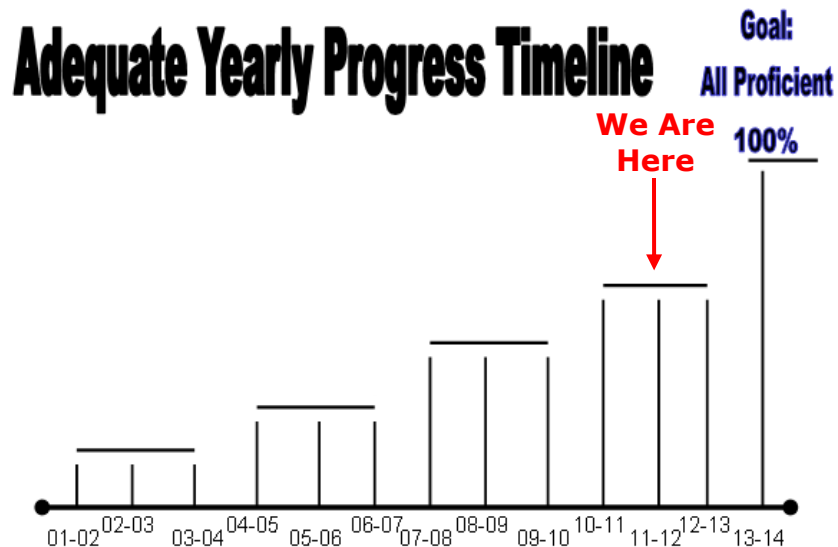
The NDDPI requests that all appeals of data discrepancy be submitted no later than 5:00 pm on Tuesday, May 15, 2012.

Interpreting AYP Reports

The NDDPI has prepared the 2011-2012 AYP guidance, which presents an overview of the AYP determination process. You can access this guide at www.dpi.state.nd.us/testing/account/AYP1112.pdf. This guidance also specifies any changes that have occurred in this year's AYP reports, including a change in this year's graduation rate goal that was required by federal regulation.

Program Improvement Designation

Schools and districts that do not make AYP for two consecutive years are identified for Title I program improvement. As anticipated, we have seen a significant increase in the number of schools not making AYP and identified for improvement. This is due to the jump up on the AYP timeline for the second consecutive year.



Once the school and district AYP information has been posted to the department's website, the Title I office sends individual letters to all schools and districts identified for program improvement. This letter informs schools and districts of their status and responsibilities while in program improvement. In addition, schools and districts that have not been identified for program improvement, but failed to make AYP for one year will receive a letter. Title I then will issue a statewide news release to inform the public about the program improvement status of schools and districts for the 2012-2013 school year.

Dissemination Requirements

Federal law requires all public schools and districts to disseminate AYP information to parents. **After both the school and the district AYP reports have been finalized, districts can decide whether to disseminate the AYP information to parents in the spring or wait until school resumes in the fall.** The NDDPI requests that schools *not* publish or distribute any preliminary school AYP results publicly until the official release of the final AYP reports.

Under the Title I regulations, districts and schools are required to provide timely notification regarding AYP results. This notification falls into one of three categories:

- Timely notification is defined as no later than 14 days prior to the first day of school for schools identified for program improvement that need to offer school choice.
- Schools and districts identified for improvement, but not offering school choice, need to disseminate the AYP information before the first day of school.
- Schools and districts not identified for improvement are required to disseminate this information by the beginning of the school year.

Information That Should be Included in the AYP Dissemination

It is imperative that correspondence be included with the AYP reports to explain them to parents. Your correspondence should:

- ✓ Inform parents that the North Dakota State Assessment measures student performance in terms of the percentage of students who are at or above state-defined academic standards in reading and mathematics as measured by the North Dakota State Assessment and report the results on a school, district, and state level.
- ✓ Highlight the various components of the report including the achievement results in reading and math, the participation rule, the subgroups, and the secondary indicator.
- ✓ Inform parents of your **school and district** AYP status.
- ✓ Share with parents what your school is doing to maintain AYP status.
- ✓ Highlight what the AYP reports mean to parents, which includes reminding parents that they are an important influence in helping their children achieve to high academic standards and how parents can be actively involved in their children's education.
- ✓ Address any unique issues on your AYP report such as an "(i)" because there was *insufficient data to determine AYP due to a small number of students*, or that the report was based on Title I students only and states at the top – "Title I targeted rule applied".

Samples

There are various samples of parent notification letters for districts or schools available on our website. The state Title I office has created communication toolkits for both schools and districts.

- **Communication Toolkit for Schools**
In this document, you will find sample forms, letters, and general guidance to help schools as they work to meet the requirements for communicating with parents regarding AYP. This information is available at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/targeted/general/reauthoriz/school.shtm.
- **Communication Toolkit for Districts**
In this document, you will find sample forms, letters, and general guidance to help districts as they work to meet the requirements for communicating with parents regarding AYP. This information is available at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/targeted/general/reauthoriz/district.shtm.

Questions

If you have any questions on your AYP reports, please contact Heidi Bergland at (701) 328-2317 or hberglan@nd.gov.

If you have any questions on program improvement or dissemination issues, communicate with your Title I program improvement contact person or contact Laurie Matzke at (701) 328-2284 or lmatzke@nd.gov.