

# Questions and Answers

## About Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

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

AYP stands for adequate yearly progress. It represents the annual academic performance targets in reading and math that the state, school districts and schools must reach to be considered on track with the federally mandated goal of 100% proficiency by school year 2013-14.

### 2. Why does Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) exist?

AYP is part of state and federal statute.

The Federal *No Child Left Behind (NCLB), 2001*. Sec. 1111 (b)(F), states that, “Each state shall establish a timeline for adequate yearly progress. The timeline shall ensure that no later than 12 years after the 2001-2002 school year all students in each group described in subparagraph (C)(v) will meet or exceed the state’s proficient level of academic achievement on the state’s assessments.”

*New Mexico Statute Article 2C Assessment and Accountability Sec. 22-2C-8 NMSA 1978*, Adequate Yearly Progress – “The state shall institute an ‘adequate yearly progress program’ that measures public schools’ improvements...”

### 3. Who has to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)?

- The state
- School districts
- Schools
- Subgroups within schools. The subgroups include the following categories:
  - Ethnicity/race: African American, Asian/Pacific, Caucasian, Hispanic, Native American
  - Economically Disadvantaged
  - Students with Disabilities who have IEPs (Individual Education Plan)
  - English Language Learners

### 4. Can a given student be included in more than one subgroup?

Yes. For example, a Caucasian student who also receives free lunch would be counted in both categories.

### 5. What happens if a school does not make AYP?

If a school does not make AYP for the same reasons (eg in the same content areas) for 2 consecutive years, then the school receives an NCLB designation as a school in need of improvement.

See document “NCLB Designations and Requirements.”

**6. How can schools be removed from improvement status?**

If a school makes AYP for two consecutive years, that school will no longer be in need of improvement.

**7. What do schools have to do in order to make AYP?**

Schools need to:

- a) Achieve a 95% participation rate on state assessments.
- b) Reach targets for proficiency.
- c) Reach targets for one other indicator – attendance rate for elementary and middle schools and graduation rate for high schools.

**95% Participation Rate**  
(Applied to schools and subgroups of 40 or more)

**8. What groups must achieve a 95% participation rate?**

Participation rates will be calculated for all schools. Each school and all subgroups of 40 or more students must achieve a 95% participation rate.

**9. If any participation rate (school wide or subgroups over 40 students) for a school does not achieve a 95% participation rate, can it still make AYP?**

No.

**10. Which assessments may be utilized in calculating participation rates of students?**

- a) In reading and math, New Mexico standards based assessment at grades three through nine (3-9) and eleven (11).
- b) New Mexico Alternate Assessment at grades three through nine (3-9) and eleven (11).

**AYP Starting Points and Proficiency Targets**  
(Applied to whole school regardless of size and to subgroups of 25 students or more)

**11. Will the AYP proficiency targets stay the same over time?**

No. The proficiency targets increase over time as we work towards the goal of 100% proficiency by 2014. At a minimum, every 3 years there is a federally mandated increase.

**12. How were the AYP starting points established?**

The NCLB Act prescribes the process for determining starting points. The same process is used to establish starting points for reading and math.

To calculate these baseline levels, the following steps were taken:

- a) Based upon assessment performance, schools were ranked from lowest to highest.
- b) Beginning with the lowest ranked school, the enrollment for each school is added to the enrollment of the next highest performing school. This continues until 20 percent of the

statewide enrollment has been reached. The percentage of proficient students for the school at which the 20% level was reached becomes the starting point for AYP.

**13. How is proficiency defined for the purpose of determining AYP?**

Students achieving at the proficient or advanced performance levels are counted as meeting requirements when calculating proficiency rates to make AYP determinations.

**14. How are the AYP targets set?**

The NCLB goal is to have 100% of students proficient by 2014. AYP targets are set to help us move toward meeting the 100% goal.

**15. Do all groups and schools have to meet the same targets?**

All schools of the same configuration/grade span and subgroups have to meet the same proficiency targets. (See Questions 32 and 34.)

**16. What students are counted for the purpose of making AYP proficiency determinations?**

Students continuously enrolled in the school for a full academic year at the time of testing are counted. A full academic year, in this context, is defined as continuous enrollment in the same school from test cycle to test cycle (e.g. Spring 2004 to Spring 2005).

**17. What about students whose parents refuse to let their children take the test?**

Those students are included as non-participants when determining AYP participation rates for a school. The students receive no score for the assessments, which is considered below proficiency. A no score for the assessment will adversely affect a school's calculation of AYP.

**18. How do I calculate the proficiency rate for a school?**

- a) Use the following formula:
  - Denominator: The total number of students tested, who were enrolled for a full academic year.
  - Numerator: The number of students scoring proficient or advanced, who were enrolled for a full academic year.
  - Divide the numerator by the denominator. The result is the schools AYP proficiency percentage.
- b) Sort the students by subgroup. For any subgroup with 25 or more students enrolled for a full academic year, repeat steps a and b, in question 18, to compute the AYP proficiency percentages for that group.
- c) Calculate the confidence intervals with upper and lower limits. (See Confidence Interval Formula in question 35.)
- d) Compare performance results with targets adjusted for the 99% confidence interval.

**19. Do schools have to reach AYP targets in both reading and math to make AYP?**

Yes, all schools must meet both targets, regardless of the size of the school. Separate AYP determinations must be made in reading and math. If a school does not reach performance targets in both reading and math, it has not made AYP. If a school fails on either math or reading, that school will not make AYP.

**20. Do all subgroups have to reach the performance targets in reading and math in order to make AYP?**

Yes. All subgroups of 25 or more students must meet the AYP targets. Separate AYP determinations must be made in reading and math.

**Targets for Other Academic Indicators**

**(Attendance Rate for elementary and middle and Graduation Rate for high schools)**

**25. Must schools and subgroups of 25 or more students reach the performance targets set for the other academic indicators in order to make AYP?**

Yes. Besides achieving the proficiency target and the required 95% participation rate, schools and subgroups must reach the performance target on one other academic indicator. NCLB does not provide for exceptions with regards to the other academic indicator.

**26. What is the other academic indicator for elementary and middle schools?**

Attendance rate is the second indicator for grades K-8.

**27. What is the other academic indicator for high school?**

NCLB requires that a graduation rate be used as the other indicator in determining AYP for high schools.

**28. What is the target for attendance?**

The target for attendance rate is 92%

**29. How were the targets for the attendance indicator established?**

The attendance indicator targets were established by applying the target that is currently in the New Mexico Accountability Workbook. An accountability workbook is the method each state uses to describe that particular state's compliance with NCLB/AYP requirements.

**30. How are graduation rates calculated for the purpose of determining AYP?**

The state calculates graduation rates in a uniform manner for all school districts. Identifying the number of seniors who graduated from a high school and dividing that number by the number of seniors who were enrolled in the school on the 40th day of the same year determines graduation rate.

**31. What is the target for graduation?**

NCLB requires a graduation rate of 100% by 2014. The 2004-2005 target for graduation rate is 90%. Each high school will meet AYP if it achieves a 90% graduation rate or equals or exceeds the previous year's graduation rate, or if the graduation rate averaged over three years (this year's rate and the two previous academic years) equals or exceeds the rate of the previous academic year.

**Schools with Non-Traditional Configurations**

**32. What are the targets for schools with grade spans other than K-5, 6-8 and 9-12?**

When a school serves two or three levels (e.g., a K-8, K-12 or 7-12 school), it is considered a single school for the purposes of determining AYP. In such instances, a weighted average of the multiple grades is used to set the AYP target.

**33. What are the targets for schools that do not have one of the tested grades?**

NCLB requires that all schools receive an AYP designation, even if they do not have a tested grade. The AYP determination for such schools is the same as those of the schools into which they feed. For example K-2 schools will receive a designation despite the fact students are only tested in grades 3-9 and 11. Therefore, those K-2 schools will receive a designation which is derived from the school or schools that those K-2 schools feed into.

**Starting Points, Annual Measurable Objectives**

**34. What are New Mexico's starting points and AYP targets?**

The following chart represents the percentage of students who need to be proficient for the school to make AYP.

School's Grade Configurations	Math Target	Reading Target
K – 5	24.13	40.85
K – 6	19.40	36.00
6 – 8	10.58	34.14
7 – 8	10.75	37.17
9 – 12	18.29	37.30
K – 8	15.28	36.79
7 – 12	14.42	37.30
K - 12	15.79	37.23

## Confidence Interval Formula

35. What is the formula to compute confidence factors for AYP targets?

$$\pi_L = \frac{n}{n + z^2} \left[ p + \frac{z^2}{2n} - z \sqrt{\frac{pq}{n} + \frac{z^2}{4n^2}} \right]$$

Where: n = the number of students

z = the critical value (PED is using a 99% confidence level, so z= 2.33)

p = AYP target (Annual AYP Goal), expressed as a proportion (e.g., .3370)

q = 1-p

Source: *Statistical Methods in Education and Psychology*, Glass and Hopkins 1996

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