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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RELEASES 2008 ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS (AYP) DATA

Increase in schools not making AYP the result of slight improvements in MCA-II scores, and increased AYP targets

Roseville – The Minnesota Department of Education today released 2008 data regarding Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

Of 1,920 Minnesota schools earning an AYP status in 2008, 983 schools made AYP compared to 1,191 schools in 2007. There were 937 schools that did not make AYP in 2008, up from 727 schools in 2007. Thirty-one schools provided insufficient data. Minnesota currently has 197 Title I schools in need of improvement, which will be providing additional options and services to students.

The increase in schools not making AYP is the result of only slight improvements in proficiency and the increases in the reading and math AYP targets required to meet the federal government's requirement of 100 percent proficient by 2014.

“Minnesota is committed to preparing every Minnesota student for success after high school,” said Alice Seagren, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Education. “AYP can be used as a vital tool for moving forward with that goal.”

AYP is a means of measuring, through standards and assessments, the achievement of the NCLB goal of 100 percent proficient by 2014. AYP is structured to ensure that all children have the opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach, at a minimum, proficiency on challenging state academic achievement standards and state academic assessments.

AYP is determined for the entire school as well as subgroups including: racial/ethnic groups, Students with Disabilities, English Language Learners and economically disadvantaged students as measured by participation in free and reduced-price meals. Schools make AYP if the students in these subgroups meet the targets for the percent of students meeting or exceeding the standards on the state assessments in reading and mathematics as well as meeting the participation and the attendance or graduation requirements.

Schools that receive federal Title I dollars and are not making AYP are identified as being in need of improvement. Depending on the number of years they do not make AYP, schools in need of improvement must offer a range of options to students, including school choice with transportation, supplemental services and restructuring.

(more)

Congress has yet to act on reauthorization of NCLB, which currently requires that 100 percent of students be proficient by 2014.

“As long as the requirement is for 100 percent proficiency by 2014, we will aim for that goal,” Commissioner Seagren said. “With or without NCLB, we need to focus on preparing every Minnesota student to succeed.”

Last year, the Department of Education and a diverse group of Minnesota education organizations issued several recommendations for improving NCLB, including an increased focus on systemic school reform, improved data systems and providing the resources or changes to the law needed for implementation. The consensus of that group was that NCLB should be “mended, not ended.” Minnesota also continues to explore flexibility opportunities provided under NCLB.

AYP data will be available to the public after 9:45 pm on August 5 at:
<http://education.state.mn.us>.

School AYP Data

| AYP - School | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Making AYP | 1,405 | 1,191 | 983 |
| Not Making AYP | 483 | 727 | 937 |
| Total | 1,888 | 1,918 | 1,920 |

Stages of in need of improvement can be found at:
<http://education.state.mn.us/mdeprod/groups/NCLB/documents/FAQ/034531.pdf>

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