



Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) is one of the cornerstones of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) signed into law January 2002, as the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. In Washington, it is primarily a measure of year-to-year student achievement on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) in reading and mathematics. One of the requirements of NCLB is that states develop a baseline or starting point for students to achieve proficiency as measured by WASL math and reading scores. Each year the state must “raise the bar” in gradual increments so that by 2013-2014, all (100%) students will achieve proficiency in each subject area.

Each school and district must meet the yearly AYP goals as a whole and by disaggregated student population groups. These groups are specified by the law to be race/ethnicity, students with disabilities, limited English proficient students, and students who are economically disadvantaged. These groups must contain enough students to be statistically reliable and not permit personal identification of individual students. In Washington a group must contain at least 30 continuously enrolled students to be considered statistically reliable and at least 10 to protect personally identifiable information. To be considered “continuously enrolled” a student must be enrolled without a break in service from October 1 through the testing period.

AYP applies to each school in the state that serves students in grades 4, 7, and 10. School totals for these grades are aggregated up to the district and state totals.

### **How is AYP determined?**

- AYP is calculated separately for reading and mathematics.
- There are two ways a school can make AYP:
  - By demonstrating all students and required groupings meet or exceed the established WASL proficiency goals in both mathematics and reading.
  - By meeting the “safe harbor” provision. This provision permits schools with one or more subgroups not making the goals to still make AYP if the percentage of students not making AYP in that school declined by at least 10 percent in each student category and the other indicator (graduation rate for high school or unexcused absences for elementary and middle schools) is met.

### **What happens if AYP is not met?**

- The law specifies consequences for schools and districts receiving Title I funds which do not meet the AYP targets for two or more years in a row. While the results of WASL testing are reported for all schools and districts, the consequences apply only to those schools receiving Title I funds.
- After two consecutive years of not meeting AYP targets, a school enters Step 1 and is subject to the related consequences.

Sacajawea Elementary School is a Title I school that has not made AYP for two consecutive years on our 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade WASL reading and math scores for our students who are economically disadvantaged. By not meeting our performance goal in this specific area we will enter Step 1 of School Improvement.

As part of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001, Title I schools in Step 1 must provide parents the opportunity to move their child/children into a Title I school that has made AYP. This is called Public School Choice. Transportation will be provide free of charge.

You may request to move your child/children to one of these Title I schools in the Richland School District:

- Jefferson Elementary School
- Marcus Whitman Elementary School

The Sacajawea Elementary School staff is committed to the success of our school and to provide a quality education for each of our students. Our School Improvement Goal for 2009-10 states that the Sacajawea Elementary School staff will deepen their understanding of the role that poverty plays in the lives of underachieving children.

- As an example, on August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009 our staff participated in an in-service on teaching students who reside in poverty. Staff was introduced to the work of Ruby Payne (Framework of Understanding Poverty), who specializes in the area of teaching students who are economically disadvantaged. There will be future in-service work on this topic during the coming school year.
- Our school staff will discuss and implement concrete learning strategies to help our economically disadvantaged students succeed academically and socially.

We will remain in School Improvement until our economically disadvantages students meet improvement standards for two consecutive years.

#### **How many other schools in Washington did not make AYP for 2009?**

- 1,285 schools did not make AYP. Of that total, 1,073 are in one of five steps of improvement.
- For districts, 209 did not make AYP and 103 are in one of two steps of improvement.
- Of the 505 schools in Step 1 of improvement this year, about 243 missed AYP in one category.

Additional information regarding AYP is available at <http://www.k12.wa.us/ESEA/WhatisAYP.aspx>

**To sign your child/children up for Public School Choice, contact the Sacajawea Elementary School office by Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009.**

You will receive information about enrollment and start dates to confirm your request. Please note that we cannot guarantee a specific school until all requests are previewed.

If you have any questions, please contact me by calling Sacajawea Elementary School at 967-6325. Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Jim L. Bruce*

Jim L. Bruce, Principal  
Sacajawea Elementary School

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**Sacajawea Elementary School**

**518 Catskill, Richland, WA 99354 (509) 967-6325 FAX (509) 371-2681**