



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**For Immediate Release
November 1, 2010**

**Contact: Julie Johnson Thompson
(501) 683-4786 / (501) 766-7976
julie.thompson@arkansas.gov**

LITTLE ROCK: Forty-one percent, or 446, of Arkansas public schools made Achieving status this year on the state's 2009-2010 adequate yearly progress (AYP) list, which is required under the federal No Child Left Behind Act. Achieving schools made AYP as determined by the performance of their students on the state's Benchmark exams. The bar for meeting AYP is higher than last year, with more than 64 percent of students required to score proficient or better on the exams for schools to meet adequate yearly progress this year to meet AYP.

Another 209 schools missed the mark for AYP for the first year, placing them in Alert status, while 420 Arkansas public schools are now in some phase of school improvement. For a complete list of schools and their school improvement statuses as well as other resource documents concerning AYP and the state's Smart Accountability system, go to <http://arkansased.org/programs/nclb/ayp.html>.

The state as a whole has met the targets for AYP.

No Child Left Behind dictates that all children score proficient on the state Benchmark exams by 2013-2014. In Arkansas, the bar for making AYP moves higher each year, as illustrated in this table which shows the percent of students required to score proficient or better by subject and grade:

Starting Point	K-5 Math	K-5 Literacy	6-8 Math	6-8 Literacy	9-12 Math	9-12 Literacy
2005-2006	40.00	42.40	29.10	35.20	29.20	35.50
2006-2007	47.50	49.60	37.96	43.30	38.05	43.56
2007-2008	55.00	56.80	46.83	51.40	46.90	51.63
2008-2009	62.50	64.00	55.69	59.50	55.75	59.69
2009-2010	70.00	71.20	64.55	67.60	64.60	67.75
2010-2011	77.50	78.40	73.41	75.70	73.45	75.81
2011-2012	85.00	85.60	82.28	83.80	82.30	83.88
2012-2013	92.50	92.80	91.14	91.90	91.15	91.94
2013-2014	100	100	100	100	100	100

"Obviously it is becoming more and more difficult to make adequate yearly progress. However, we know our school districts and schools are working hard to make sure children have the best possible opportunity to achieve proficiency," Tom W. Kimbrell, Arkansas commissioner of education, said. "They're not doing it to avoid a label, but

because they know the best thing for each child, as well as for the state as a whole, is for all students to graduate equipped with the skills and knowledge it takes to succeed in today's world."

The federal government approved the state's differentiated accountability model, which is named Smart Accountability, in January 2009. The model divides schools into the following categories:

- Achieving, meaning the school has made adequate yearly progress for two or more years.
- Alert, meaning the school did not meet adequate yearly progress this year after meeting it last year and therefore is not in a phase of school improvement
- Targeted School Improvement, meaning a school has been identified as being in school improvement status because one or more, but fewer than 25 percent, of its student subgroups failed to meet adequate yearly progress for two or more consecutive years
- Targeted Intensive Improvement, meaning that a school has remained in Targeted School Improvement status for four or more years.
- Whole School Improvement, meaning that a school has been identified as being in school improvement status because the full test-taking population and/or more than 25 percent of its student subgroups failed to meet adequate yearly progress for two or more consecutive years.
- Whole School Intensive Improvement, meaning a school has remained in Whole School Improvement status for four or more years.
- State Directed, meaning that a school has remained in school improvement status for five or more years. At this level, the state requires schools and districts to implement more interventions and to work with a school improvement team or director that is appointed by or approved by the state.

The 2010 adequate yearly progress calculations show that:

446 schools are classified as Achieving
209 schools are classified as Alert
99 schools are classified as "Targeted Improvement Schools"
158 schools are classified as "Whole School Improvement Schools"
20 schools are classified as "Targeted Intensive Improvement Schools"
65 schools are classified as "Whole School Intensive Improvement Schools"
78 schools are classified as "State Directed" schools

A district is placed into district improvement when it has failed to make adequate yearly progress for two consecutive years. Likewise, districts must make adequate yearly progress for two consecutive years to be removed from the district improvement list.

The summary for districts this year is:

211 districts Meet Standards
19 districts are in School Improvement, Meets Standards
27 districts are in Alert
1 district is in District Improvement Year 1
4 districts are in District Improvement Year 2
1 district is in District Improvement Year 3

1 district is in District Improvement Year 4

The final 2009 school improvement results for schools and districts were:

Schools in 2009:

505 schools were classified as Achieving

174 schools were classified as Alert

138 schools were classified as "Targeted Improvement Schools"

113 schools were classified as "Whole School Improvement Schools"

29 schools were classified as "Targeted Intensive Improvement Schools"

65 schools were classified as "Whole School Intensive Improvement Schools"

57 schools were classified as "State Directed" schools

Districts in 2009:

212 districts Met Standards

15 districts are in Alert

8 districts are in District Improvement Year 1

13 districts are in District Improvement Year 2

3 districts are in District Improvement Year 3

1 district is in District Improvement Year 4

The Arkansas Department of Education strives to ensure that all children in the state have access to a quality education by providing educators, administrators and staff with leadership, resources and training.