

AE/MS, MVHS Gain, But Still “In Need Of Improvement”

By Jane Slayton
Principal, AE/MS

During the first week in April, the 2010 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) report for New Hampshire schools was released. Preliminary designations for new schools in need of improvement were also released.

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act requires the state to establish a process for determining if schools have met the statewide performance targets which measure the progress of elementary and secondary students on mastery of the state standards as defined in the frameworks and state assessment.

The 2010 AYP Reports are based on the October 2009 New England Com-

Each school as a whole continues to beat statewide scores and target scores, but sub-groups continue to land each school on the Schools In Need of Improvement list.

mon Assessment Program (NECAP) results for grades 3 through 8 and grade 11, together with the 2008-2009 New Hampshire-Alternate Assessment results for grades 2 through 7 and grade 10. AYP is calculated through an index system, with schools and districts receiving full credit for each student who scores Proficient or better, and partial credit for student scores below Proficient.

To make AYP, a school or district must meet performance targets established for students in reading and mathematics. Student performance in the school as a whole is measured, as well as the performance of specific sub-groups of students, which are broken down by ethnicity, socioeconomic status, educational disability, and non- or limited- English proficiency.

Of the 473 school AYP reports released, 133 schools made AYP in all areas measured and 323 did not make AYP in one or more areas. Schools not making AYP for two consecutive years in the same area are designated a School in Need of Improvement (SINI).

This table above is a comparison of how all Andover Elementary/Middle School students performed compared to required target scores and state composite scores, including how the scores compare to last year:

As a whole school, AE/MS exceeded both the required target scores and the state composite scores and improved in all areas from the previous year (see the numbers in parentheses). However, this does not make a differ-

ence when it comes to making AYP. There are seven “subgroups” that must each also show progress.

AE/MS does not have enough students in the four racial subgroups to calculate AYP, nor enough students in the non- or limited- English proficient subgroup.

	AE/MS	NH	Target
Reading	94.9 (+1.7)	91.3 (+0.9)	91.0 (+5.0)
Math	90.6 (+4.8)	87.2 (+1.1)	88.0 (+6.0)

AE/MS does have students that are considered “economically disadvantaged” (based on qualifying for free or reduced lunch) and with an “educational disability.” It is the subgroup of students with an educational disability who scored below the target score in both math and reading.

The school as a whole made AYP. The educationally disabled group made enough progress in math to make “safe harbor,” meaning that although they did not make the target, they made substantial progress towards the target. This same group did not make enough progress in reading to meet the target.

AE/MS math scores were high enough that we made AYP this school year, but a school must make AYP for two consecutive years to lose the SINI designation.

Complicating things further, the target scores for math and reading are increasing. AE/MS scores as a whole school showed big enough gains to stay above the target scores.

The State of New Hampshire as a whole did not meet the requirements for the economically disadvantaged, the educationally disabled, or the non- or limited- English proficient subgroups in math and reading.

As a school we will continue to strive to ensure that all of our students can demonstrate that they are making progress toward proficiency in reading and math.

SEND A GIFT!
The *Beacon* relies on voluntary non-deductible gifts for a substantial part of its budget.



AE/MS 2010-2011 Kindergarten Registration Information Gathering Wed., May 12

If your child will be 5 years old on or before September 30, 2010 please call Mrs. Parenteau to schedule an appointment. 735-5494

By Mike Jette
Principal, MVHS

For the third year in a row, our subgroups at Merrimack Valley High School (MVHS) did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) on the state NECAP test required by

	MVHS	NH	Target
Reading	93.7 (-1.3)	89.7 (+0.5)	89.0 (+5.0)
Math	72.2 (+3.5)	66.4 (+1.2)	72.0 (+14.0)
Graduation %	96.3 (+6.6)	90.2 (+2.3)	75.0 (0.0)

No Child Left Behind (NCLB). This means that our school will continue to be labeled as a School In Need of Improvement. The table above is a side-by-side comparison of how all MVHS students did compared to state composite scores and to required target scores. The number in parentheses is how many points up or down each score is compared to last year.

As a whole school, we exceeded both the required target scores and the state composite scores, and in almost every case showed improvement over the scores posted the previous year.

However, this does not matter when it comes to making AYP. There are seven “sub-groups,” each of which must also show progress. In our case, we do not have enough students in the four racial subgroups to calculate AYP, nor enough students in the non- or limited- English proficient sub-group. We do have students who are considered “economically disadvantaged” (based on qualifying for free and re-

duced lunch) and with an “educational disability.” The economically disadvantaged students and the students with an educational disability scored below the target score in math, while the students with an educational disability also did not achieve the target score in reading.

Note that each year, the target scores for math and reading are increasing. The target math score increased by 14 points over last year. While we showed gains, they were just not enough to keep up with the increasing target scores.

It should be noted that of the state’s 78 high schools, 52 are now labeled as schools in need of improvement based on the federal NCLB law. This does not mean that 67% of our New Hampshire schools are failing based on this single measure of achievement. It does, however, mean that we need to continue to strive to ensure that all students can demonstrate that they are making progress toward proficiency in reading and math.

SUBSCRIBE!
For a minimum non-deductible gift of \$25 you can have the *Beacon* mailed anywhere, even to a seasonal address.

Kids like Jimmy need families like yours.



Become a foster or adoptive parent.

CASEY FAMILY SERVICES

105 Loudon Road, Bldg. 2
Concord, NH 03301

Share the power of family.

603.224.8909
www.caseyfamilyservices.org