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SEAL OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
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**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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Nearly 46 percent of Schools Made Adequate Yearly Progress

JUNEAU – Of 505 Alaska public schools, 231 schools – or 45.7 percent – made adequate yearly progress in the 2010-2011 school year under the federal No Child Left Behind Act, the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development announced today.

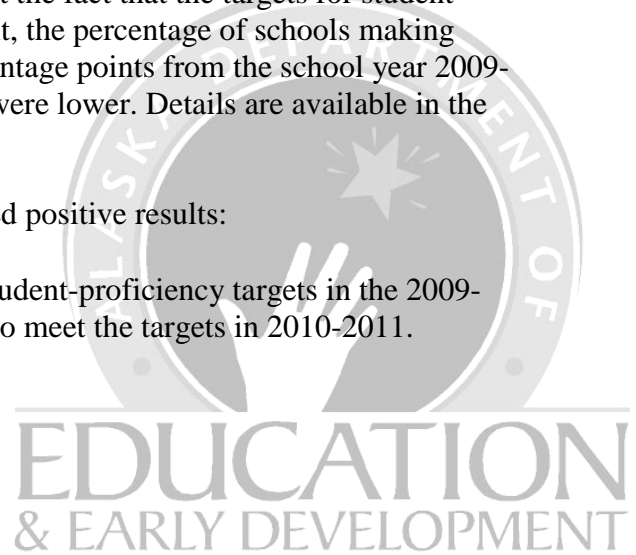
Every year, the state measures schools' progress toward the federal law's goal that 100 percent of students be proficient in language arts and math by spring 2014. Students' proficiency is measured by their performance in state assessments in reading, writing and math in grades 3 through 10.

Each year under No Child Left Behind, schools must meet targets for the percentage of students who are proficient, as well as targets for attendance, graduation, and participation in state assessments. In all, there are 31 targets. If schools meet all of these targets, they have made adequate yearly progress. But every few years, the targets increase. In other words, over time the bar for making adequate yearly progress is set higher.

The results for the school year 2010-2011 reflect the fact that the targets for student proficiency and graduation increased. As a result, the percentage of schools making adequate yearly progress declined by 14.1 percentage points from the school year 2009-2010, when proficiency and graduation targets were lower. Details are available in the AYP 2011 Report at www.eed.state.ak.us.

Nonetheless, Alaska public schools demonstrated positive results:

- Forty-seven schools that did not reach student-proficiency targets in the 2009-2010 school year sufficiently improved to meet the targets in 2010-2011.



- In addition, 11 other schools that had struggled in the past have now made adequate yearly progress for two consecutive years and no longer face consequences under No Child Left Behind.
- The statewide graduation rate for the 2010-2011 school year is 68 percent, a 0.5 percent increase over the previous year. In the 2010-2011 school year, 7,887 students graduated from an Alaska public high school.
- Many schools just miss making adequate yearly progress by falling short in one or two targets. In the 2010-2011 school year, 65 schools missed one target, and 48 other schools missed in only two targets.
- In the 2010-2011 school year, 74 percent of Alaska's schools met the language arts target for their assessed student body as a whole; 74 percent met the math target; 98 percent met the target for student participation in assessments; and 89 percent met the targets for attendance or graduation.

The department's online information about this year's AYP data includes: a background explanation of NCLB's accountability system; a summary of the consequences for schools that do not make adequate yearly progress; a page of detailed AYP data for each of 505 schools; a list of schools that made adequate yearly progress; a list of schools that did not make adequate yearly progress; a summary of schools by school district, showing which targets were met and which were not met; and a PowerPoint presentation that summarizes this year's results. See www.eed.state.ak.us under Headlines.

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