

## **No Child Left Behind background and 2009 results**

There are two ways to look at the No Child Left Behind results released by the Kentucky Department of Education. The first offers a pass-fail depiction of student achievement – schools either make 100 percent or they don't. The second look is more complex and takes a bit more time and understanding, but it truly lets parents, educators and our community know whether schools are moving kids ahead.

No matter how you look at it, the news is good in Fayette County – at schools across the district, more students are scoring proficient or distinguished in reading and math than ever before.

Students in the state of Kentucky are tested each spring on state and national tests. For the purposes of No Child Left Behind, only the results in reading and math on the state test (called the Kentucky Core Content Test) are considered. The goal is for a school to make “Adequate Yearly Progress” (AYP).

Here's how KDE decides whether a school has made Adequate Yearly Progress:

1. A calculation is made to show what percentage of students earned either a proficient or distinguished score in reading and math. (Proficient and distinguished are the highest two of four possible scores on the state test.)
2. Those scores are reported for all students, as well as different categories of students, including minority students, low-income students, students with disabilities, and students with limited English proficiency.
3. Under the No Child Left Behind law, the percentage of students in every single category who earned proficiency or above in reading and mathematics has to be at or above a certain percent. If any single group of students does not meet the state goals, a school does not make AYP.

All schools are given designations of making AYP or not. But schools that receive federal money (called Title I) because they have a high percentage of impoverished children can face consequences for not meeting the standard. A Title I school that does not make AYP for two years in a row is designated “in need of improvement” and must give students the option of transferring to another school that has not been identified for improvement. Each time a Title I school fails to make AYP, the sanctions get increasingly harsher.

Changes made in Senate Bill 1 by the General Assembly have added a new twist to the NCLB results this year. Beginning in 2009, all schools in the state that do not make AYP are eligible for state assistance. On that basis, five Fayette County Public Schools are eligible for state help: Bryan Station Middle, Henry Clay High, Lafayette High, Paul Laurence Dunbar High and Tates Creek High.