

September, 2011

Dear Parent,

This letter is to inform you of **Blue Ridge Middle School's** standing with the federal requirements for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as defined by the No Child Left Behind Act.

AYP provides another method to measure student progress. Adequate Yearly Progress reports the percentage of each student group scoring at the Proficient level, which is defined as Met or Exemplary on the new PASS tests for students in grades 3-8. Student attendance is also used to determine AYP status. Our attendance rate must be at least 94% each year or improve from the previous year. AYP goals are set by the state and differ from other states' goals. AYP targets for South Carolina students scoring Proficient have more than doubled since 2005. To meet AYP goals, individual groups of students are expected to meet or exceed the following percentages of students at the Proficient level:

Grades 3-8	2002-2004	2005-2007	2008-2010	2011-13	2014
Reading	17.6%	38.2%	58.8%	<b>79.4%</b>	100%
Mathematics	15.5%	36.7%	57.8%	<b>79.0%</b>	100%

Although proficiency cut scores and achievement tests differ from state-to-state, the No Child Left Behind Act calls for ALL students in the U.S. to achieve the Proficient level on state tests by 2014. In South Carolina, that means ALL student groups will have to show considerable improvement each year on the PASS (new State testing program). The student groups are: All, White, African-American, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaskan, Limited English Proficiency, Disabled, and Free-Reduced Price Lunch Participants. If just one student subgroup fails to meet one of the performance or percentage tested objectives in a given year, that school will fail to meet AYP for that year. Schools with diverse student populations face more challenges to meet AYP. For some schools, that means significant improvement must be made each year on up to 37 different goals.

For 2010-11, **Blue Ridge Middle School did not meet** AYP. Our school met **19** of our **21** AYP target goals for the year.

Because we did not make Adequate Yearly Progress, our school will focus on ways to close achievement gaps and bring every student to the Proficient level (Met or Exemplary on the PASS tests). **A total of 86%** of students overall at our school are performing at Proficient on Math and **83%** are performing at Proficient on Reading. However, two subgroups (disabled students and students on subsidized meals) fell slightly below the required marks in order for us to make AYP.

If you have questions about our school's AYP result, please call me. For further information about Adequate Yearly Progress, please visit the Greenville County Schools website at [www.greenville.k12.sc.us](http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us).

Sincerely,  
Becky Greene, Principal  
Blue Ridge Middle School