

As Required by No Child Left Behind Act**Introduction**

The federal No Child Left Behind Act calls for ALL students in the U.S. to be at the Proficient level or above on state tests by 2014. In addition, Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) status for elementary and middle schools includes student attendance, and AYP status for high schools includes graduation rate.

Test Requirements

In South Carolina, ALL demographic “student subgroups” must continue to improve on the Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS) and the High School Assessment Program (HSAP) Exit Exam each year until 2014. The student subgroups are as follows: All, White, African-American, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaskan, Limited English Proficiency, Disabled, and Free-Reduced Price Lunch Participants.

Percentage of Students Required to Score at the Proficient Level**Elementary and Middle Schools – Met or Exemplary on PASS**

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

High Schools – Level 3 or 4 on HSAP (High School Exit Exam)

10 th Grade & Other 2 nd Year HS Students	2003-05	2006-08	2009-11	2012-13	2014
English/Language Arts	33.3%	52.3%	71.3%	90.3%	100%
Mathematics	30.0%	50.0%	70.0%	90.0%	100%

For AYP performance objectives to be measured, a school must have 40 or more students in each subgroup. For AYP percentage tested objectives to be calculated, each subgroup must have 40 or more students. If just one student subgroup fails to meet one of the performance or percentage tested objectives in a given year, that school fails to meet AYP for that year. AYP status will be noted on the School Report Card as MET or NOT MET.

A school district may not meet AYP for a subgroup of students even if all schools meet AYP. This is possible when each school has fewer than 40 students in a student subgroup, but the total of all students in the subgroup attending district schools is 40 or more.

Attendance and Graduation Requirements

Elementary and middle schools must achieve a 94.0% student attendance rate or have a higher attendance rate than previous year to meet AYP requirements. High schools must annually achieve an 88.3% student graduation rate, meet or exceed last year’s graduation rate, or meet or exceed its three-year average graduation rate.

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Things to remember:

- NCLB allows each state to craft its own test criteria to determine AYP status. As a result, the percentage of schools in a state meeting AYP is affected by the rigor of NCLB test requirements for that state.
- The more diverse a school is demographically, the more challenges or targets a school must meet to achieve AYP. For some schools in South Carolina, that means significant improvement must be made each year on up to 37 different goals.
- Each school has different needs. Specific solutions must be developed for each school. This is the purpose of the School Improvement Plan.
- Efforts to improve academic performance include improved access and use of performance data, instructional coaches for elementary and middle schools, curriculum resource teachers for high schools, elementary science lab instructors, content-specific graduate level courses for teachers to improve content knowledge, teacher incentives to improve credentials, National Board Certification support, early childhood education programs, clarification of State standards and review of each school's instruction with the standards, and teacher training to better assist ESOL learners.