

News Release

August 26, 2009

Monroe County Schools and No Child Left Behind Report

The recent release of state test results shows that, as a district, Monroe County Schools joined fifty-two other counties in the state not making **Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)**. One school - James Monroe High – did make AYP.

AYP is a method of reporting student progress under the federal No Child Left Behind Act and is just one of the tools the school district employs to assess student achievement. The AYP status of a school is calculated on scores achieved by students in grades 3-8 and 10-11 in reading and mathematics on the states' WESTEST 2 assessment. The AYP status of an entire district is calculated on a compilation of scores from these eight grade levels. In addition to meeting certain achievement levels, school districts must also test at least 95 percent of their students and meet state-determined attendance and high school graduation targets.

School districts are required to further break out their data from the eight grades into nine different subgroups: all students, as well as students in the following categories - limited English proficiency, special education, free and reduced price lunch, white, black, Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian, and Hispanic.

A school or school district must have at least 50 students in each subgroup in order for the subgroup to be reported and evaluated. An entire school is considered as not achieving AYP if students, if one or more of the subgroups for which it qualifies, are not proficient in mathematics or reading, and/or the school does not achieve the required percentages in the areas of participation, attendance or graduation. Under the law, the mathematics and reading benchmarks for achieving AYP increase each year until 2014, when 100 percent of students must be proficient.

The sub-group of students who received free or reduced lunch at Peterstown Middle School did not make AYP in reading. Students who received free or reduced lunch at Peterstown Elementary School did not make AYP in mathematics. The subgroup of students in special education at Mountain View School did not make AYP in reading and mathematics.

The district will continue to focus on interventions that provide long-term benefit to students. In addition, Monroe County School is ensuring that teachers have been trained in and are working in Professional Learning Communities. Working in small groups, teachers focus on improving student achievement by combining research and student performance data with their commitment and concern to achieve academic goals for their schools.

Sanctions related to failure to achieve AYP status apply to schools receiving Title I funding during 2008-09. Mountain View School is affected by these sanctions due to the fact that this school has the largest population of special education students.