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The ABC's of AYP – Frequently Asked Questions

Which students are included in my school's AYP Detail Report?

A school's AYP will be determined only by students who are deemed Membership 1. To be included in this group a student must be enrolled at the school within the first 20 days of school and remain continuously enrolled throughout the year. For all schools that follow the standard MCS calendar (some charter schools and Campus School are exceptions), the 20th day of 2008-09 was September 8.

How many students does it take to make a subgroup?

A school must have at least 45 Membership 1 students within the subgroup to be held accountable for a Math and/or Reading/LA proficiency level. Students can, and usually do, count in more than one subgroup (example: Hispanic, Student with Disability [SWD], Limited English Proficient [LEP], All).

Which students are included in an SWD subgroup?

Any child with an individualized education plan/program (IEP), excluding Gifted and Functionally Delayed students, counts for the SWD subgroup. This includes students served only for speech and hearing impairments. Student being served under a 504 Plan are not included in the subgroup.

How do TCAP Writing Assessment scores count toward AYP?

Writing assessment scores are combined with scores in Reading/Language Arts. The writing numbers are weighted at $\frac{1}{2}$ the value of the Reading/LA scores. The formula looks like this:

$$\frac{\# \text{ of P/A RLA} + (.5 \times \# \text{ P/A WA})}{\# \text{ Tested RLA} + (.5 \# \text{ Tested WA})}$$

Some of our district's eighth grade students take the Algebra I Gateway. What happens to their scores?

Gateway scores for a student in grade 8 are "banked" or held until that child enrolls in a high school. That score is then counted with the high school's AYP report during the child's first year of high school (grade 9). The middle school does not receive credit toward AYP for any Gateway results.

Some students take Gateway exams multiple times throughout high school in an effort to earn a regular diploma. Does every assessment count toward AYP?

No, AYP is made up of only first-time test takers within each content area. If a student takes the Algebra I Gateway in Spring 2008 and then takes it again in Fall 09, the latest will not be included in an AYP report. However, a new practice allows high schools to use a student's best Gateway score if the exams are taken within the same testing cycle. The cycle would include tests taken in July, December, and May.

How does a school qualify for Safe Harbor?

A school must not only make the necessary reduction in below proficient students, but must also meet the requirements of the additional indicator. For elementary and middle schools, the entire school's attendance rate is the additional indicator. Graduation rate is the additional indicator for high schools. Therefore, if a school does not earn AYP for attendance rate or graduation, the school will also not be eligible for meeting AYP in Math and/or Reading/LA via Safe Harbor.

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