



# Wyoming Department of Education

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Final Results – 2012 AYP**

**CHEYENNE** - Following the district review period and completing the quality assurance process, the Wyoming Department of Education releases the final results of 2012 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

Wyoming Schools AYP Snapshot:

- 349 total schools
- 210 schools met AYP
  - 27 of these schools are now in ‘holding’ category
- 139 schools did not meet AYP
  - 80 are in ‘warning’ year (meaning not in school improvement)
  - 59 are in school improvement status

Decisions directly impacting AYP determinations this year are: 2010 PAWS administration waiver; removal of the writing prompt from PAWS testing in 2012 due to legislative action necessitating recalculation of AYP achievement levels; school districts’ review of AYP determinations; 2011 PAWS language arts data recalculated for reading only for ‘safe harbor’ for 2012 determinations.

The table below lists the numbers and percentages of schools that did not make AYP:

**Table 1: 2011-2012 school year AYP results:**

| <b>Numbers of schools that did not make AYP = 139</b> | <b>Year(s)</b>        | <b>Percent of ALL schools</b> |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 80  | <b>Year 1 Warning</b> | 22.9%                         |
| 17  | <b>Year 2</b>         | 4.9%                          |
| 17  | <b>Year 3</b>         | 4.9%                          |
| 8   | <b>Year 4</b>         | 2.3%                          |
| 8   | <b>Year 5</b>         | 2.3%                          |
| 2   | <b>Year 6</b>         | 0.6%                          |
| 3   | <b>Year 7</b>         | 0.9%                          |
| 4   | <b>Year 8</b>         | 1.1%                          |

Schools that miss AYP for the first year are classified as in ‘warning’ status. Schools that fail to meet AYP in consecutive years are placed in ‘school improvement’ status. Schools that are in improvement status must meet AYP for two consecutive years to be removed from school improvement status. Schools that are in school improvement status that meet AYP are placed in ‘holding’. The holding category indicates that improvement has been made and the school is progressing. If a school in holding fails to meet AYP, then the school returns back to school improvement status. Each year of school improvement carries some consequences.

### **Additional Background – AYP**

**The following information is provided as context related to the publication of the 2012 AYP determinations.**

- **2010 PAWS Administration Waiver:** U.S. Department of Education granted Wyoming a waiver regarding 2010 Proficiency Assessments for Wyoming Students (PAWS) data; 2010 PAWS data could not be used for AYP calculations.
- **2011 PAWS:** This test was successfully administered and the AYP was calculated; however, safe harbor was not available to schools and districts as a result of the 2010 U.S. Department of Education waiver (Safe Harbor requires two consecutive years of data before it can be applied).
- **Wyoming 61<sup>st</sup> Legislature removed writing from the 2012 PAWS; therefore, AYP calculations required adjustment:** In past years, language arts was calculated using a weighted system valuing reading as sixty percent and writing as forty percent of the total language arts achievement measure. The removal of writing increased the weight of reading to one hundred percent and writing was reduced to zero percent.
- **WDE informed U.S. Department of Education that the writing prompt was removed from PAWS and requested freezing 2011 targets; U.S. Department of Education explained targets must be recalculated due to the removal of writing.**
  - The removal of writing required reconfiguring algorithms for calculating achievement in language arts (no longer including writing – calculating reading only) as well as the calculation of safe harbor. In order to reconfigure the algorithms, it was necessary to isolate reading data from prior years.
  - WDE requested waivers to freeze targets since the targets increased steeply due to No Child Left Behind (NCLB) requirements.
  - WDE, as of this date, has not received U.S. Department of Education response to its request to freeze targets.

- WDE explained the upcoming, increased achievement changes to districts via webinars (<http://edu.wyoming.gov/Programs/adequate-yearly-progress>) and in the accountability workbook (see WDE website; <http://edu.wyoming.gov/sf-docs/ayp/wyoming---2011-12-accountability-workbook.pdf?sfvrsn=2>).
- **AYP Review Process:** Districts reviewed their AYP determinations; some districts reported confusion concerning calculations as the reported language arts scores for schools on the WDE website for 2011 (which include reading AND writing) differed from what they anticipated. It was explained (see descriptions above) that WDE was required to use 2011 re-calculations (reading only) in order to calculate safe harbor. *Therefore, the 2011 reports on the website (reading AND writing) are official for the 2011 calculation. The 2011 re-calculations (reading only) were required for calculating safe harbor for 2012.*
- **What is safe harbor?** Safe harbor is a provision in the ESEA intended for schools and districts that are making progress in student achievement but are not yet meeting target goals for adequate yearly progress (AYP). Safe harbor provides an alternative for a school to meet AYP if the percentage of non-proficient students in the group(s) that did not reach the state's annual measurable objective (AMO) decreased by 10 percentage points from the previous school year; the group(s) made progress on the state's other academic indicator; and the group(s) had at least 95 percent participation on the state assessment. (Retrieved from <http://www.eddataexpress.ed.gov/definitions.cfm> October 16, 2012.) It is important to remember the calculation for safe harbor in language arts was also affected by the changes caused by the removal of writing. This change caused a few school districts to question the calculations.

The 2012 AYP results are available on the Wyoming Department of Education website at [http://fusion.edu.wyoming.gov/Login/web/Pages/AYPPublicReports/AYP\\_All\\_District\\_School\\_Results.aspx](http://fusion.edu.wyoming.gov/Login/web/Pages/AYPPublicReports/AYP_All_District_School_Results.aspx).

In an effort to add clarity to the on-line reports, please click this link to view an annotated picture of how to read and understand these reports:

<http://edu.wyoming.gov/DataInformationAndReporting/Accountability.aspx>

Please contact Dianne Frazer at 307-777-8676 or via email at [Dianne.frazer@wyo.gov](mailto:Dianne.frazer@wyo.gov) for more information.

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