

Frequently Asked Questions about AYP in Idaho for 2007-08

Who gets AYP determinations?

Accredited public schools will receive finalized AYP determinations in July 2008 based on the spring 2008 ISAT. The official list of schools for AYP purposes has been shared with districts. Students in programs will be counted in their home or sponsor school.

What are the targets?

There are 41 targets to meet in order to make AYP for 2007-08. AYP is calculated using the on-grade level (NCLB Core Items) portions of the spring ISAT in grades 3-8 and the entire 10th grade ISAT.

Target areas include:

- 1) Entire school
- 2) African American (Code: 03)
- 3) Asian (Code: 02)
- 4) American Indian/Alaska Native (Code: 01)
- 5) Hispanic (Code: 06)
- 6) White (Code: 05)
- 7) Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander (Code: 04)
- 8) Students with Disabilities
- 9) Limited English Proficient
- 10) Economically Disadvantaged

AYP is calculated for each group listed above on four factors:

- 1) *Participation*: For both reading and math, a minimum of 95% of students in each disaggregated group must be tested to meet the AYP participation target.
- 2) *Academic proficiency – Reading*: A minimum of 78% of students in each disaggregated group must score at the proficient level or above in reading.
- 3) *Academic proficiency – Math*: For math, 70% of students in each disaggregated group must score at the proficient level or above.
- 4) *Third Academic Indicator **: The third academic indicator, for elementary, middle schools, and junior high schools, will consist of one of three choices:
 - Increase percentage of students scoring advanced
 - Decrease percentage of students scoring below basic
 - Maintain, make progress or have proficiency above 78% in Language Usage

Meeting a graduation / completion rate target is a legal requirement under NCLB and will be used as the third academic indicator for all high schools. These four factors are applied to each of the ten target populations (10 x 4 = 40), plus the entire school must meet the third indicator target for a total of 41 targets:

- (a) Reading participation
- (b) Reading proficiency
- (c) Math participation
- (d) Math proficiency
- (e) Third indicator

Missing any one target identifies the entire school or district as not meeting AYP for the year.

★ Districts must notify the Office of the State Board of Education in writing at accountability@osb.idaho.gov by September 15th of each year if they want to change their option for third indicator.

Does the ISAT Science Test count in AYP this year?

No. The Science ISAT in grades 5, 7, and 10 does not count in AYP determinations. OSBE will report the state results from the science test to the US Department of Education in the annual federal report.

Passing the 10th grade science ISAT becomes a graduation requirement for the graduating class of 2012.

What is Safe Harbor?

A school or district that misses a subgroup proficiency goal in reading or math, or both, can “make” AYP if it meets these two Safe Harbor tests:

- 1) Decreasing the percent of non proficient students by 10% or better
- 2) Achieving the third indicator target

Does the school have to ask for Safe Harbor?

No. Safe Harbor is automatically calculated for all eligible schools.

Will the state average participation rates?

Yes. Idaho utilizes the flexibility from the federal government to average participation rates over three years. Averaging will work like this: If XYZ school misses a participation target in 2007-08, the rate will be averaged with 2006-07 and 2005-06 rates. If the average is 95% or greater the target of 2007-08 is met. It is not retroactive and cannot be used to change prior year AYP determinations.

Who is not included in all or part of the AYP calculations?

Students who are not enrolled for a full academic year — The definition is: “A student who is enrolled continuously in the same public school from the end of the

first eight (8) weeks or fifty-six (56) calendar days of the school year through the end of the state-approved spring testing administration period...”

Limited English Proficient (LEP) students in their first year in the U.S — For LEP students, Idaho applies a federal flexibility policy in their first year in a U.S. school. It works like this:

- 1) Reading/Language Usage: The student must take the IELA. Students coded LEP1 will be counted for participation for the reading and language usage ISAT, but will not be counted for proficiency.
- 2) Math: Students coded LEP1 must take the ISAT math test. This allows the student to count for participation, but scores do not count for proficiency.
- 3) Science: Beginning in 2008, students coded LEP1 must take the ISAT science test. This allows the students to count for participation, but scores do not count for proficiency.

NOTE: The LEP1 code can only be used for one spring ISAT administration for each student that meets the qualifications.

Is there flexibility for students who have exited LEP programs?

Yes. Scores of students who have exited the LEP program are included in the LEP subgroup totals by coding those students LEPX. An “exited LEP” student (LEPX) may be included in subgroup totals for only two years and tracked by coding LEPX1 in the first year and LEPX2 in the second year for flexibility. Each of these codes may be used for only one spring ISAT administration.

Is there new flexibility for special education students this year?

The federal government allowed states to apply for flexibility for special education students. Idaho is in the third year of utilizing this flexibility, and will proceed using the flexibility for qualifying schools and districts. To be considered for this flexibility, special education must be the only target missed by the school or district.

What if a student takes the ISAT with adaptations?

The student will be counted as “not tested” for participation.

What if a student is not able to take the ISAT due to illness?

Students who are absent for the entire state-approved testing window because of a medical condition are exempt from taking the ISAT, and therefore, do not count for participation or proficiency. **It is necessary to file an appeal for these students and provide appropriate documentation or they will be counted as “not tested” for participation.**

What does “needs improvement” mean?

A school or district must miss a target in the same subject area for two consecutive years to be identified for improvement. Examples include:

XYZ school, in 2006-07, makes all targets except LEP reading proficiency. In 2007-08, the school makes all its reading goals including LEP reading proficiency, but misses in LEP math. The school is not a “needs improvement” school. Rather, it has just not made AYP for math.

ABC school, in 2006-07, makes all targets except math proficiency for the white racial subgroup. In 2007-08 the school makes the math proficiency for the white racial subgroup target and all other targets except math proficiency for the Hispanic ethnic subgroup. The school makes all of its reading targets. This is a needs improvement school because it missed a math goal for two consecutive years. **Rule of Thumb: Two consecutive years missed in the same subject. Once in “needs improvement” status, schools or districts must make AYP for two consecutive years to leave “needs improvement.”**

What are the AYP Percent Proficient Targets?

	2002-03 2003-04	2004-05 2005-06	2006-07 2007-08 2008-09	2009-10 2010-11	2011-12 2012-13	2013-14
Reading	66%	72%	78%	85%	92%	100%
Math	51%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%
Language Usage	66%	72%	78%	85%	92%	100%

Will districts be able to appeal AYP results after the schools have finalized appeals?

No. Changes made at the school level will also be applied to the district level to ensure accuracy across all levels.

Do I need to notify the Idaho State Board of Education if our school is not going to file an appeal?

Yes. Please email the AYP committee at accountability@osbe.idaho.gov and let us know you won't be filing an appeal for 2007-08. In this case, preliminary AYP determinations will become final and allow districts and schools to proceed with notification of parents if required (please see AYP link on the State Board of Education website).

How long will the appeal window be open and when does documentation need to be sent?

The appeals window will be open for thirty (30) days. Appeals will not be reviewed until paper documentation has been received. All documentation must arrive in the Office of the State Board by close of business on the last day of the appeals window.

File your appeals as soon as possible. Appeals will be processed as they arrive and schools will be notified when final determination is made. Schools will be able to review adjustments as soon as their appeal is processed.

E-mailed or faxed documents will not be accepted in accordance with FERPA regulations.