

Virginia Department of Education
Guidelines for Determining the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) of “Small n Schools”
for School Year 2010-2011
(Based on 2009-2010 Standards of Learning Assessments)

As approved by the United States Department of Education for the calculation of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the 2010-2011 school year (based on assessments administered in 2009-2010), Virginia will use 50 or 1 percent (capped at 200) of the enrolled student population, whichever is greater, as the “minimum n” for purposes of calculating AYP and applying the 95 percent participation rate requirement at the state, division, and school levels.

State Calculation of AYP for “Small n Schools”

Currently, the three most recent years of statewide assessment data will be used to automatically calculate the pass rate to determine if a “small n school” met the Annual Measurable Objectives in reading and mathematics.

A “small n school” that meets the Annual Measurable Objectives in reading, mathematics, and the other academic indicator using this method will make AYP. A school that does not make AYP by using this method will be declared TBD (To Be Determined) on the reports provided to school divisions.

School Division Determination of AYP for “Small n Schools”

Schools labeled TBD may submit a body of evidence to their *school division* for consideration. The body of evidence must include indicators of student achievement. The school division will make an AYP determination for the school and forward that decision, with an explanation for its basis, to the Department of Education filed by the division superintendent within **15 business days** of the school receiving official notice of its AYP accountability decision or no later than **September 10, 2010**, for validation and inclusion in statewide data reports. The Department of Education will consider the school division’s recommendation for the AYP status of Title I schools, but ultimately it will make the final decision for Title I schools. If no evidence is submitted to the Department on behalf of a school by September 10, 2010, that school will not make AYP.

Indicators of Improved Student Achievement for “Small n Schools”

In determining the AYP status of a “small n school,” a school division should consider Standards of Learning (SOL) assessment data and one or more other indicators that measure student progress in reading, mathematics, and the other academic indicator. The body of evidence presented by the school must show a direct correlation to improved student achievement in reading and mathematics. In addition to SOL assessments, such measures may include, but are not limited to, standardized test scores, PALS results, scores on benchmark assessments approved for use in PASS schools, results from the Algebra Readiness Diagnostic Test, tests administered on a divisionwide basis, and unadjusted average scale scores. Teacher grades are not considered sufficiently reliable for the purpose of documenting increased student achievement for AYP.

Calculating AYP for “Small n Schools”

To remain consistent with other provisions related to AYP, “small n schools” that did not make AYP using the state calculations should at a minimum show progress on the selected student achievement indicators from one year to the next, and if possible, demonstrate improved performance for the students in a tested cohort over time. The school division may apply a “safe harbor” methodology to determine AYP.

Submission of Evidence on the Adequate Yearly Progress of a “Small n School”

The documentation submitted to the Department of Education for review and validation must provide clear evidence of the measures of student progress that were used, the reduction in failure rate or improved student performance, and any further clarification required to explain the AYP decision. School divisions should use the attached form in submitting their AYP decisions for “small n schools” to the Department of Education no later than September 10, 2010. The form and accompanying documentation should be mailed to: Marsha Granderson, reports and grants manager, Virginia Department of Education, P.O. Box 2120, Richmond, VA 23218-2120. See instructions for submitting the documentation on the form.

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Marsha Granderson, reports and grants manager, by e-mail at Marsha.Granderson@doe.virginia.gov or at (804) 786-1993.