

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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April 19, 2004

TO: School Board Members

FROM: Katherine Blasjk, ^{JAB} Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent
Research, Evaluation, Assessment & Boundaries

VIA: Frank Till
Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: **FLORIDA'S USE OF FEDERAL FLEXIBILITY FOR ADEQUATE
YEARLY PROGRESS (AYP)**

Commissioner Horne and Chancellor Warford have announced that for the calculation of Adequate Yearly Progress in school year 2003-04 the Florida Department of Education (DOE) will implement the Federal flexibility options pertaining to the Limited English Proficient (LEP) subgroup and the participation rate calculation. These options were provided by the United States Department of Education in Secretary Paige's announcement of March 29, 2004. The flexibility allows for the following changes to the AYP calculation:

- Students who have been exited from the LEP program within the previous two years will be included in the LEP subcategory. These students are identified on the student database by the indicator code of LF.
- If the current year participation rate does not meet the 95% criteria for a school or subgroup, the Florida DOE will average the current and previous year's participation and use the higher of the two rates.

A copy of the Florida Department of Education letter is attached for your review. If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact me at 754-321-2470 or Anne Dilgen, Director, Student Assessment, at 754-321-4257.

FT/KAB/AD:sjm
Attachment

cc: Senior Management
Principals

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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April 7, 2004

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Commissioner Jim Horne and Chancellor Jim Warford

SUBJECT: Florida's Use of Federal Flexibility for Adequate Yearly Progress

The United States Department of Education recently released new No Child Left Behind (NCLB) policies for calculating Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), creating new flexibility for states while ensuring accountability for all students. Florida will be implementing federal flexibility regarding limited English proficient (LEP) students and the participation rate calculation. Florida Department of Education officials sought input from school district superintendents and educators to determine the effects of these policy changes and to ensure appropriate policy implementation.

During the 2002-03 school year, only students actively enrolled in classes specifically designed for LEP students were included in the LEP subgroup for AYP calculations. A flexibility option provided in Secretary Paige's letter allows states to include students formerly classified as limited English proficient in the LEP subgroup. This policy changes the definition of limited English proficient students, giving states the option to include students who have attained English proficiency for up to two years after exiting LEP services. Florida will include former LEP students (LEP Category: LF) in the LEP subgroup in calculating proficiency for all 2003-04 AYP calculations. Including these students allows Florida to receive credit for the good work we have done helping LEP students attain full proficiency.

Secretary Paige announced on March 29 that USDE will allow states to use data from the previous years to average the AYP participation rate data for a school and/or subgroup as needed. If this average meets or exceeds 95 percent, the school will meet the AYP participation requirement. Schools that are performing well in this category may not be unduly identified as "in need of improvement" because of a one- or two-year dip in their

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participation rates. Florida will utilize the two year average participation rate in 2003-04. AYP calculations for a school or subgroup will use the current year participation rate or the two year average participation rate, whichever is higher.

It is important to note that the United States Department of Education will be promulgating rules in the near future on the implementation of the flexibility options offered to states. Florida will have an opportunity to provide input during this process. Florida will also conduct further analysis on the impact of these two policy changes after the 2003-04 AYP determinations are made and then revisit the policy changes for the 2004-05 AYP calculations.

Please be certain of our commitment to assist you in all your endeavors. If you have any questions regarding the calculations used for AYP determination, please contact Christy Hovanetz, Director, Evaluation and Reporting Office by phone at 850-245-0411, or by email at Christy.Hovanetz@fldoe.org. Questions regarding assessment and the administration of FCAT may be referred to Cornelia Orr, Director, Assessment and Student Performance by phone at 850-245-0513, or by email at Cornelia.Orr@fldoe.org. For questions regarding assessment of LEP students, please contact Lisa Saavedra, Chief, Bureau of School Safety and School Support by phone at 850-245-0692, or by email at Lisa.Saavedra@fldoe.org.

cc: John Winn
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