



# GALENA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**SUPERINTENDENT**

Chris Reitan

Dear Families and Community Members:

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) mandated that all students in grades 3 through 10 score proficient on standardized tests for language arts and mathematics by 2014. All school districts and schools in Alaska are required to demonstrate Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) towards meeting this goal. Each school year the Department of Education uses the combined test scores from all of our students who were tested in April to determine Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for our school, along with other schools around the state.

Alaska's AYP calculations are based upon three factors set forth within the law. (1) The percentage of students meeting or exceeding state standards in language arts and math; (2) Testing participation rate; and (3) The factor of "other academic indicator" a combination of average daily attendance and graduation rate. AYP is one indicator of a school's success. A school and district must meet 31 performance targets in nine student subgroups in the areas of language arts, math, attendance, test participation, and graduation rates to make AYP. Two schools made AYP and two schools did not make AYP this past year. The district's language arts scores, a combination of reading and writing, showed an 81% proficiency level. The district's math scores showed a 62% proficiency level. The district's graduation rate is 70.1%, up 5.76% percent from last year.

Reviewing the individual school scores may raise the question, "Are schools that didn't meet AYP failures?" The answer is, "No." AYP designations do not define a school. Keep in mind that AYP calculations are based upon three days of testing once per year. Although we receive valuable feedback from the results, they are most meaningful when used with other forms of evaluation and assessment such as MAP testing and teacher made assessments.

I urge you to examine the results and look closely at the progress our schools are making. Most important, I encourage you to join me in addressing our challenges and applauding the great work students and staff are doing in classrooms throughout the district. As always, I welcome your comments, suggestions, and involvement in our schools and in the challenges our students face.

Sincerely,

GCSD Superintendent