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A Guide to Montana Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

A Guide to Montana Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) was prepared by the Montana Office of Public Instruction to assist schools with administering President Bush's No Child Left Behind Act education requirements.



1. What is the No Child Left Behind Act?

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) was first passed in 1965, becoming the U.S. Department of Education's primary funding vehicle for providing resources to the nation's schools. Since 1965, the "Act" has been modified and reauthorized. "No Child Left Behind" is the name President Bush gave to the act passed by Congress in 2001 and signed into law by the President on January 8, 2002.

2. How does it differ from past federal spending laws?

The biggest difference is that this federal spending plan contains sanctions for schools that fail to make the academic progress spelled out by Congress.

3. What does it require of schools?

The centerpiece of the act is a requirement that public schools have 100 percent of students performing academically at grade level by the spring of 2014.

4. How are students measured?

Academic progress is measured using the state's reading and math tests. Of greater significance is that each school's enrollment is divided into 11 specific subgroups along lines of race, family income, limited English proficiency and students with disabilities. In addition, a minimum of 95% of students must take the tests.

Each subgroup must contain at least 20 students to be measured for progress in reading and math. A school meets the No Child Left Behind standard only if each of the 11 subgroups of students makes the academic progress necessary to get 100 percent of students at grade level by 2014. If any subgroup fails in either subject, the whole school fails to meet the federal standard.

5. Are all schools affected?

Yes, all Montana schools and districts are affected by President Bush's No Child Left Behind Act. Schools that do not meet these new federal standards for two consecutive years are required to revise and review their five-year comprehensive education plans to make the needed changes.

Only schools that receive federal money known as Title I money are subject to specific sanctions of the No Child Left Behind Act. In Montana, 79% of all schools receive Title I money.

All schools are affected by other provisions of President Bush's No Child Left Behind Act, such as higher academic requirements for teaching assistants and classroom teachers. All schools also will be judged -- regardless of whether they take Title I money -- and the results made public.

6. What are the sanctions for schools that use Title I money?

Schools using Title I money that fail to meet the federal standard for two consecutive years must offer all students the choice to transfer to another public school in the district. Schools that fail to meet the standards for three consecutive years must also offer extra tutoring or similar services to low-income students who are below grade level.

7. Can a school be fully accredited by the State of Montana and fail to meet the federal standards?

Yes. Many schools throughout the state are fully accredited and meet state standards, but will fail to make the progress now required by the federal law.

8. Where can people find more about President Bush's No Child Left Behind Act?

An overview of President Bush's No Child Left Behind Act can be found at <http://www.nclb.gov/>.

9. Where can people find more information about Montana schools?

More information on Montana's schools, 2002-03 state assessment results and the Montana's Adequate Yearly Progress under President Bush's No Child Left Behind Act can be found at www.opi.state.mt.us.

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