



---

**OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

---

PO BOX 202501  
HELENA MT 59620-2501  
[www.opi.state.mt.us](http://www.opi.state.mt.us)  
(406) 444-3095  
(888) 231-9393  
(406) 444-0169 (TTY)

Linda McCulloch  
Superintendent

## NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**  
**August 14, 2003**

For More Information:  
Joe Lamson, 444-3160

### **First "Adequate Yearly Progress" Report Released on Montana Schools**

Superintendent of Public Instruction Linda McCulloch today released the first Adequate Yearly Progress Report to comply with President Bush's "No Child Left Behind" Act. The "Adequate Yearly Progress" Report gives the status of how well Montana schools and districts are meeting the new federal education requirements.

"Today, we are releasing a complete list of Montana schools and their status in meeting the new 'adequate yearly progress' requirements of President Bush's 'No Child Left Behind' Act," announced Superintendent McCulloch. "The report lists 452 (52%) of Montana schools currently meeting the requirements of the new law. 179 (21%) of Montana schools are identified as not making the adequate yearly progress required by the law. Due to their small enrollment size, there also are 231 (27%) schools which more information needs to be provided to determine their current status,"

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) was first passed in 1965, and it is 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 on January 8, 2002. The centerpiece of the act is the requirement that public schools have 100 percent of students performing academically at grade level by the spring of 2014.

"Each school is judged on 55 different measures. If a school does not meet a federal standard in any one of those 55 measures, it is designated as not meeting the 'adequate yearly progress' demanded by the new law. My concern is this new law will give a false impression of the quality of our schools and educators," explained Supt. McCulloch. "Montanans need to know I do not in any way, shape, or form believe this report comes close to accurately portraying the high quality of Montana's public schools. This report only looks at the specific measures required by the federal government. The measures are helpful, but only present a small piece of a very large picture."

*"It is our mission to advocate, communicate, educate and be accountable to those we serve."*

"Adequate yearly progress" is measured using the state's 4<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade reading and math tests. Of greater significance is that each school's enrollment is divided into 11 specific subgroups along lines of race ethnicity, family income, limited English proficiency and students with disabilities. To make "adequate yearly progress" a academic score must be achieved in math and reading, a minimum of 95% of students must take the tests, elementary schools must achieve an attendance rate of 80%, and high schools must achieve a graduation completion rate of 80%.

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 of the 11 subgroups fails to meet the standards for either math or reading, participation, attendance, or graduation completion rate, the whole school fails to meet the federal standard.

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 for improvement.

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

There are a total of 34 schools that did not meet adequate yearly progress goals for two or more years and are subject to the sanctions provided for in the No Child Left Behind Act.

"Montanans through our state constitution have long demanded a quality public education system for all our people. The educational goals of 'No Child Left Behind' have long been shared by Montana educators and practiced in Montana schools," Supt. McCulloch pointed out. "The goal of all Montana educators is to make sure the full educational potential of every Montana child is developed. It is the very nature of education that we constantly strive to improve our schools and learning techniques. We know where the problems exist. What is needed are the proper level of resources to solve these problems."