

INTERIOR DISTANCE EDUCATION OF ALASKA

Galena City School District – Anchorage Field Office – 670 W. Fireweed – Anchorage, AK 99503
907-562-4332 – Fax 907-562-4662

December 16, 2010

Dear Families,

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.

The great news for this year is that the IDEA program did make AYP for the 2009-2010 school year. For a school our size to make AYP is an outstanding accomplishment! Our schools designation will remain at "Level 5 (First Year). Now, I am sure you are wondering, "What does this mean for us?" If we can achieve AYP for our program again this year, we can start over in the process at step one. A school must achieve AYP two years in a row to start over. If not then we will remain at level 5.

Even though we made AYP this year, we still remain at level 5 so we are required to notify parents and develop a school improvement plan. We will look at the areas where we made safe harbor (making safe harbor means improving 10% over last year in that area) and work with the PAC's and staff from those regions to come up with workshops or changes to our procedures that will move us towards our meeting AYP for the 2010-2011 school year.

Last year we tested 2062 students in over 65 different testing sites around the state and had a 98% participation rate, which is very impressive when you consider some of the logistical problems we face! Our scores in language arts and math met annual measurable objectives (AMO) in the category of "School as a Whole". We made safe harbor in the areas of Alaska Natives and American Indian, Economically Disadvantaged and Students with Disabilities. Included with this letter is a report which shows you these details, as well as the excellent scores and participation of IDEA students in most of the measured areas.

Overall the entire IDEA program staff and parents continue to move forward and to do a great job at testing. I feel we have much to be proud of. With your commitment to your child's education as strong as it is, our future is bright.

Sincerely,

Steven D. Musser, Assistant Superintendent/IDEA