

The federal “No Child Left Behind Act of 2001” requires states to develop assessments in basic skills (currently math and reading) to be given to all students in certain grades, if those states are to receive federal funding for schools. Kansas requires each class of juniors to take the state assessments each year. Students may take this test in earlier years if they are ready; their score is banked until their junior year.

The NCLB Act requires schools to meet a target called Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). AYP refers to a goal of having a set percentage of juniors take the state assessment AND having an increasing percentage of them score proficient. We must test at least 95% of our juniors each year. To make AYP, a school must also have a certain percentage of juniors score proficient on the state reading and state math assessments. The percentage of juniors who must be proficient on these tests increases every year until 100% of students are expected to be proficient on state math and reading tests by the year 2014.

Test scores for the previous school year have been finalized by the state and released to schools. For the 2007-2008 school year, the target percentage of students scoring proficient on the state reading test was 77.4%. For mathematics, this target was 63.2%. Not only must our large class of juniors meet this target, but all the subgroups of a junior class must also meet this target for a school to make their AYP goal. Students are placed in multiple subgroups based on ethnicity, socio-economic status, and school program (like ESOL or special education).

East High currently has eight different categories which must meet both the yearly target for student participation and the percentage of students proficient. We must test at least 95% of our juniors each year. If we miss testing 95% of our students, even in just one small subgroup, or we have just one subgroup not meet the proficiency target, then the school cannot meet AYP for that year. This is true for both reading and math. If one small subgroup misses the target for any of the sixteen areas in math or the sixteen areas in reading, then the school cannot make AYP.

Clearly, making the Adequate Yearly Progress required by the No Child Left Behind Act takes a great deal of work on the part of both the students and the staff. We are extremely pleased that East High made the AYP targets for the 2007-2008 school year. In addition to simply meeting the AYP targets, East High was recognized for meeting the state of Kansas Standard of Excellence in math, reading and science.

To receive the Standard of Excellence for our school in these subjects, we needed at least 15% of our juniors to score at the highest level of proficiency called “Exemplary.” We also needed to have less than 10% of our juniors score at the lowest level called “Academic Warning.” Our students achieved these high end scores in all three academic areas. We are extremely proud of our students and staff and the work they have put into academic achievement.