

AYP

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 refuse to participate lose federal funding. Some states that have opted for exemption, including Utah and New Hampshire. Nevada fully participates in the program.

CCSD is the nation's fourth largest school district with in excess of 300,000 students and 12,000 new students come into the district each year, according to CCSD reports.

Dr. Walt Ruffes, CCSD superintendent of schools, lauded the results and admonished the media, "I don't want to hear CCSD is a failing district."

The report was read at a press conference recently held at the CCSD's administrative offices located at 5100 W. Sahara.

NCLB has the goal for all students nationwide to reach AYP grade-level targets by 2014. However, Ruffes said he had a problem with how the penalties are administered.

"I don't think individual schools should be penalized," said Ruffes.

When a school is not performing in accordance with NCLB guidelines and fails to make AYP in the upcoming year, parents have the option to request a transfer for their children to a school that is meeting academic goals satisfactorily or better.

In instances when a school repeatedly fails to meet AYP, it can be subject to takeover by the state education board.

Four schools — Myrtle, Tate Elementary, West Prep Middle, Von Tobel Middle and Bailey Middle — dropped to the lowest ranking in the AYP scale, which is N3, needing improvement in the third year.

The applicable designations for schools are:

AYP — met Adequate Yearly Progress

W — on the Watch List

H — on Hold pending next year

N1 — needing improvement, year 1

N2 — needing improvement, year 2

N3 — needing improvement, year 3

HA — High Achieving

EX — Exemplary

Schools that were previously on the watch list or WL or in need of improvement or N1, 2 or 3, and so forth, and met AYP this year are placed on hold or H, indicating that they must meet AYP again next year to improve their designation.

While 18 schools showed

positive trends, 11 were "exemplary," and 44 were considered "high achieving" in the district report.

Mike Barton, principal of West Prep Middle School said in a later interview with the *Sentinel-Voice* after the reports were released, "We are appealing the N3 [needs improvement] designation to the state education department"

Just one year away from possible state takeover, Barton said, "It was the attendance."

AYP requires 90 percent attendance in the first 100 days. West's attendance was 89.7 percent. "Three-tenths of one percent," said Barton.

He went on to say, "Everybody is disheartened but proud. We have committed teachers, we only lost 4 teachers last year, and we think last year's attendance numbers were inflated. There are two ways to make AYP attendance," said Barton.

Either meet the 90 percent requirement, or beat last year's attendance."

He said, "Last year's attendance at West, was 90.4 percent."

As for student achievement, Barton said, "We had a huge and strong gain. The student population is 46 percent Black and 46 percent Hispanic. "The achievement is about the same, no matter what race," he said.

NCLB has met with oppositions, and another contentious aspect of the NCLB is the nine subgroups.

According to the district's guide, "[There are] 37 targets each school must meet to reach AYP status. If even one subgroup does not meet the targets, the entire school does not make AYP."

A major objection is that the nine subgroups bring down a school's AYP, and penalize teachers, principals and school districts unfairly. This aspect has been criticized by educators, academics, teachers, and others as being impractical and not workable.

- NCLB Subgroups:
1. Entire School
 2. American Indians/Alaskan-Natives
 3. Asians/Pacific-Islanders
 4. Hispanics
 5. Black/African-Americans
 6. White/Caucasians
 7. Students with an Individualized Educational Plan
 8. Students of Limited English Proficiency
 9. Students receiving Free or Reduced Price Lunches

CCSD Trustee Shirley Barber for District C said, "I haven't had a chance to review AYP, but there's been some improvement at Booker ES and Wendell Williams ES."

Kermit Booker Sr. Elementary was among the 11 exemplary schools, along with Jo Mackey in her district.

In general, Barber said, "Schools are going, moving forward. I used to follow the scores and that was even before AYP," she said.

Principal Celece Rayford at Mabel Hoggard School said, "We have a consistent student population."

Hoggard's designation shows it met AYP. Its Black student population is 38 percent.

Most of Hoggard's students, with some exceptions, are a stable population and the school has a stable staff.

Referring to student retention, Rayford said, "Our students stay with us from first grade through fifth grade."

Hoggard is a magnet school. Magnet schools bring in students from throughout the district, beyond just the immediate area.

Rayford added, "We lose a few students because of a long school bus ride or they move out of state."

No Child law off, must be tweaked

WASHINGTON (AP) - A revised No Child Left Behind law should include merit pay for teachers and new ways of judging schools, the chairman of the House education committee said Monday.

"We didn't get it all right," said Rep. George Miller, D-Calif.

The law, which is now up for renewal, requires annual math and reading tests in grades three through eight and once in high school. Schools that miss progress goals face consequences, such as having to offer tutoring or fire their principals.

Miller said the law places too much emphasis on the math and reading tests, although those are still important indicators. Other tests or graduation rates could also be used to judge how schools are doing, he said.

The teachers unions have called for that kind of change, but the Bush administration and some Republicans in (See No Child, Page 5)

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