



NEWS RELEASE

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City schools maintain AYP performance levels; Nearly 80 percent of schools meet increased standards in math and reading

Nearly 80 percent of Richmond City Public Schools meet the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) requirements of the federal government's No Child Left Behind Act, according to preliminary figures released today. Based on data compiled by school officials, 79 percent (37 of 47) of the city's schools meet the federal benchmark scores in math and reading.

"I am pleased that we have maintained our nearly 80 percent success rate, especially when you consider the increased scores required this year in math and reading," said School Superintendent Dr. Yvonne Brandon. "Although our rate exceeds the state average of 71 percent, we remain determined and focused on our goal to have 100 percent of our schools achieve AYP."

This year, required benchmark scores increased from 75 to 79 in math and from 77 to 81 in reading. District-wide, 85 percent (24 of 28) of the city's elementary schools meet AYP requirements. At the secondary school level, six of Richmond's eight high schools make the grade.

Statewide, 17 formerly sanctioned Title I schools made AYP for a second consecutive year, which allows them to exit school improvement status. The group includes Richmond's Elkhardt and Lucille Brown middle schools.

This year marks the third straight year that Richmond City has exceeded the state average in the percentage of schools meeting AYP requirements.

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