

District Achieves AYP

Each year, students across the state take the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) examinations in Reading and Mathematics in grades 3–8 and 11. For the 2008-2009 school year, Pine Grove Area School District students continued to make substantial performance in student achievement at almost all grade levels, making gains in proficiency 18 of 20 target areas and showing progress in the advanced category on 13 of 20 target areas.

And we have more good news! This is the sixth consecutive year of the district achieving AYP. Achieving AYP means that the District has met state and federal targets set under No Child Left Behind (NCLB). NCLB was signed into law in January 2002.

While we are proud of our progress, we know that we have more work to do to help all students build the skills they need to be successful, both in school and in all aspects of life. It is our goal to continue to work together with parents and families, as a team to make all of our students successful.

The Pine Grove Area Elementary School and the Pine Grove Area Middle School also achieved AYP in Reading and Mathematics for the 2008-2009 school year. Students demonstrated gains in both subject areas in part due to data analysis, curriculum development and realignment and intensive instruction for struggling learners.

The Pine Grove Area High School did not achieve AYP in the area of Mathematics for last school year. The administration and staff members are working together examining test scores and curriculum, evaluating programmatic alterations in the past three years and planning ways to increase student achievement and progress in the area of mathematics. The district will focus on specific teaching and learning strategies K-12 in order to maximize student potential and engagement.

How the NCLB School Improvement Process Works

Under NCLB, AYP status is determined by the progress schools and districts make each year toward state goals for attendance, graduation rates, test participation and academic performance. For a school to make AYP, it must meet targets for the whole student body and for each subgroup of students enrolled in the school. A subgroup is 40 or more students in a school in four categories: ethnicity, socio-economic status, Individualized Education Plan (IEP) – Special Education – and English Language Learner (ELL). The number of targets each school has to meet depends on how many subgroups the school has. School Improvement status levels are: Warning, Warning II, School Improvement I, School Improvement II, Corrective Action I and Corrective Action II.