

NDDPI Prepares for Release of 2014-15 ADEQUATE Yearly Progress Reports

By Greg Gallagher, Assessment Director

The ND Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) is currently cleaning, merging, and analyzing essential data files required to compile and publish this year's Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) reports. The NDDPI is coordinating the efforts of our state's two assessment contractors, i.e., Measured Progress (for general assessments) and DLM (for alternate assessments), and our data management contractor to ensure the proper management of our AYP reporting components.

The 2014-15 AYP reports will differ from previous years' reporting in one critical regard, based on an AYP Freeze reporting waiver provided to the state by the U.S. Department of Education (USED). For this year's AYP report, student achievement rates from the state assessments will not be considered in determining schools' or districts' AYP designations. Instead, AYP determinations will be based solely on participation rates as the primary indicator for all schools, plus graduation rates for high schools and attendance rates for elementary and middle schools as the secondary indicators for reporting.

In February 2015, the USED provided to the states the opportunity to apply for an AYP Freeze Waiver of certain reporting requirements, allowing states within their 2014-15 AYP reports to remove student achievement rates from any AYP determinations, while retaining participation rates, graduation rates, and attendance rates within the calculation and reporting of AYP determinations for schools, districts, and the state. The USED provided this one-year Freeze Waiver opportunity to allow states to better transition into new state assessment systems, based on college and career readiness standards, such as North Dakota provides, thereby minimizing the effects of a substantially new assessment system and its new achievement standards presentation. On May 20, 2015, the USED awarded North Dakota this AYP Freeze reporting waiver.

The 2014-15 AYP reports will have an appearance similar to previous years' reports; however, the designated student achievement rates will be presented as blank cells, representing non-reportable achievement data. School and district AYP reports will be posted on the secure STARS system, allowing administrators to preview their schools' reports prior to any public release. The NDDPI will then post all finalized, certified AYP reports on the NDDPI school profile website: <https://www.nd.gov/dpi/report/Profile/>. The NDDPI will report, nevertheless, full student achievement rates in the 2014-15 School Profile reports, which will be issued later in the fall 2015. The NDDPI will provide future notices regarding the release of these School Profile reports. North Dakota will revert back to a full AYP report presentation, including student achievement rates, for the 2015-16 AYP reports.

Finally, the NDDPI soon will provide information regarding the release of individual student achievement reports, in addition to school and district composite reports, from the 2014-15 North Dakota State Assessments, both the general and alternate assessments. This information will be forthcoming in a separate memorandum to district and school administrators, prior to a final release. Thank you for your attention to these notices as they become available.