

August 2, 2011

Academic achievement continues upward

Preliminary Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) results were released by the Oregon Department of Education on August 2nd, with five Oregon Trail elementary schools meeting the AYP standards of the Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA), formerly known as No Child Left Behind. The schools meeting the rigorous AYP requirements are Welches, Kelso, Naas, Sandy Grade, and Cottrell. The one year old Oregon Trail Primary Academy also met AYP standards. However, there must be two years of data in order for a school to be officially designated as having met AYP.

AYP in a nutshell

In a given school, averaged over a two-year period, if all subgroups of students meet the statewide academic achievement targets in English/Language Arts and Mathematics, and the school also meets the targets for either attendance in elementary and middle schools or graduation rates for high school, the school is designated as making AYP. If all students or any subgroup of students in a school do not meet the targets, or do not make sufficient progress toward the targets, then the school is designated as not making AYP. In a nutshell, the failure to make AYP can come down to one or two students not passing the test.

Heading in the right direction

Sandy High School made significant academic strides, and Superintendent Aaron Bayer is especially proud of the increased achievement. Although the school did not make AYP in mathematics in the Students with Disabilities subgroup, Bayer said, "The percentage of Sandy High Students who met or exceeded reading standards increased by 9% over the prior year, for a total of 91% of students meeting or exceeding. In mathematics, the percentage of Sandy High students who met or exceeded standards increased by nearly 20% over the prior year, for a total of 78% of students meeting or exceeding." Bayer was Sandy High's principal prior to being hired this year as the Oregon Trail School District superintendent.

Sandy Grade School also showed a significant level of growth across the board in both English/Language Arts and Mathematics. Kelso, Naas, and Cottrell Elementary Schools also met AYP across the board in all subgroups.

Next steps

The continued professional development of our staff is crucial to student success, and with the implementation of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) at each of our schools, our educators are collaborating and focusing on strategies for improved instructional practice. The Early Release professional development program will be implemented at all Oregon Trail schools this fall, allowing

teachers one hour per week to collaborate, review data, discuss individual student needs, and share successful instructional practices.

“We plan to expand instructional time and targeted intervention strategies to meet the specific needs of individual students,” said Debbie Johnson, Oregon Trail Teaching & Learning Director. “Student academic success is a direct result of high-quality instruction.”

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