



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK • THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Just the Facts for NY Parents

SCHOOLS IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT

*The **NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND (NCLB) ACT of 2001** is a federal law to improve education for all children. It holds schools responsible for results, gives parents greater choices, and promotes teaching methods that work. This fact sheet will point out a part of the law that is important for parents to know.*

All children deserve a high quality, challenging education that gives them the skills and knowledge they will need to succeed in today's world. Under NCLB, the New York State Education Department must make sure that every school is helping its students improve academically.

All schools must make Adequate Yearly Progress.

The NCLB law requires every state to set high academic standards and yearly goals for achievement. By 2014, by law all children should be performing at the proficiency level in reading, language arts, and math, and science. **Adequate yearly progress (AYP)** is the minimum level of performance school districts and schools must achieve every year to meet this goal.

Title I schools that fail to show adequate yearly progress for **two years in a row** in the same subject and grade are considered **in need of improvement**.

Title I schools in need of improvement must develop a plan for improvement and involve parents in the plan. The New York State Education Department and the local school district or charter school board will help the school get resources and improve teaching.

Your child's school must tell you if the school is in need of improvement.

This information must be provided in a language you understand.

The school must tell you:

- Why the school is in need of improvement,
- How the school plans to improve and how it will help students do better,
- How the New York State Education Department and the local school district are helping your child's school (charter schools, not the local school district, are responsible for providing this information for charter schools), and
- Who can answer your questions about schools in need of improvement.

When a school in need of improvement makes adequate yearly progress for two years in a row, it is no longer considered in need of improvement.

If your child's school is receiving Title I funds and is in need of improvement, you may have new choices.

- Your child may be able to transfer to a better school in your school district (**public school choice**) if your child attends a Title I school in need of improvement.
- Your child may be able to receive extra help, known as **supplemental educational services**, if his or her school is a Title I school in need of improvement for one year and fails to make adequate yearly progress.

Schools that continue to fail must take corrective action.

If your child's Title I school fails to make adequate yearly progress by the end of the second full school year after it has been identified for school improvement, the school district or charter school board will help the school take strong corrective action, including at least one of the following:

- Change personnel,
- Change curricula, including appropriate professional development for all relevant staff,
- Bring in outside educational experts,
- Extend the school day or the school year, or
- Change the way the school operates (restructure school governance).

This table shows the steps schools and districts must take to ensure that Title I schools perform to high academic standards.

Year	Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Status	District's Role	School's Role	Parental Options
Year 1	Fails to make AYP	Districts provide support so schools can improve	Schools work to improve achievement	Parents can work with school teams for improvement
Year 2	Fails to make AYP	District identifies school as in need of improvement	School writes an improvement plan	Parents notified about school status and public school choice option
Year 3	Fails to make AYP	School continues to be in need of improvement	School works toward meeting improvement goals	Transfer options continue; students can receive supplemental educational services
Year 4	Fails to make AYP	School continues to be in need of improvement <i>and</i> requires corrective action	School works toward meeting improvement goals	Transfer options continue; students can receive supplemental educational services
Year 5	Fails to make AYP and is in need of corrective action	District must implement additional corrective actions	School works toward meeting improvement goals	Transfer options continue; students can receive supplemental educational services
Year 6	Fails to make AYP and is in need of corrective action	District must plan for alternative governance	School works toward meeting improvement goals	Transfer options continue; students can receive supplemental educational services
Year 7	Fails to make AYP: school is under alternative governance	District must carry out its alternative governance plans	School works toward meeting improvement goals	Transfer options continue; students can receive supplemental educational services

How can you find out if your child's school is in need of improvement?

- Ask your child's teacher, school principal, or a member of the school's parent group for a copy of the School Report Card, or read your child's School Report Card on the New York State Education Department web site [<http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/repcrd2003/home.html>].
- Read the list of schools in need of improvement on the New York State Education Department web site [<http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/deputy/nclb/nclbhome.htm>] (scroll down left column to "Schools in Need of Improvement").
- Join the team that is working to make your child's school better.



*This is one of a series of NY parent information sheets about the federal education law **No Child Left Behind**. Section 1111 (b) (2) (B) of **No Child Left Behind** covers "adequate yearly progress;" Section 1116 (b) covers "schools in need of improvement." For more "...**Facts**," ask your principal or email the NY State Education Department at nclbnys@mail.nysed.gov or go to the web site at <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/deputy/nclb/nclbhome.htm>. The federal **No Child Left Behind** web site has a page especially designed for parents at <http://www.nochildleftbehind.gov/parents/>.*