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School Accountability

What is school accountability?

Under No Child Left Behind (NCLB) schools are accountable for all students to succeed in school including students who receive free or reduced school lunch, students with disabilities and English Language Learners. Based on many factors, schools need to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

AYP is the amount of improvement needed each year to meet education goals set by the NCLB Act. The goal is that all students tested be proficient in English language arts, science and math. Proficient means that a student has a strong understanding of the subject. In Rhode Island, proficiency is measured by the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) exams.

What happens if my child's school does not make AYP?

Students who attend schools that do not meet AYP for two or more years are sometimes eligible for other options under NCLB, like changing schools or getting extra help (school choice, supplemental services).

Is a school that does not make AYP a "bad school"?

Not necessarily. AYP is only a measure of improvements, or change, on the NECAP exams. How many students pass the NECAP exams is also important. However, parents should consider many factors, not just the test scores when thinking about what is best for their child's education.

How can I find out if my child's school has made AYP?

You should receive a School Report Card about how well the school is doing. You should also be invited to a School Report Night every year from your child's school.

For more information on Accountability call our Family Resource Center at
401-270-0101 or 800-464-3399.

Adapted with permission from the Massachusetts Parent Information & Resource Center, A project of the Federation for Children with Special Needs