

### Adequate Yearly Progress and the PSSA:

Under the No Child Left Behind Act, all students will be required to be 100% proficient in both reading and math by the year 2014. Simultaneously all schools will be required to meet Adequate Yearly Progress. The PSSA test will be the dominant factor that plays a key role in determining whether a student is meeting adequate yearly progress. Adequate Yearly Progress or AYP is an individual state's measure of yearly progress toward achieving state academic standards. AYP is the minimum level of improvement that states, school districts, and students must achieve each year based on stepped increments by the respective state. Pennsylvania uses the 2001-2002 PSSA scores and data as the established beginning baseline for measuring student's performance toward the goal of 100% proficiency by the spring of 2014. Using 2001-02 data as the starting point, Pennsylvania established the following targets for 2003:

- 45% of students proficient or above in reading
- 35% of students proficient or above in math
- 95% student participation in the PSSA
- Improvement in attendance/graduation rates

These targets will change and gradually become higher. For example:

#### Reading:

- 2002-2004: 45% of students proficient or above
- 2005-2006: 54%
- 2008-2010: 63%
- 2011: 72%
- 2012: 81%
- 2013: 91%
- 2014: 100%

#### Math:

- 2002-2004: 35% of students proficient or above
- 2002-2007: 45%
- 2008-2010: 56%
- 2011: 67%
- 2012: 78%
- 2013: 89%
- 2014: 100%

While the details of AYP measurement can be complicated, these targets, along with 41 others, provide specific areas where schools need to be accountable and may need to improve upon in the event they miss one of their target areas. A school that misses only one target will not meet AYP, but, this does not mean it is a failing school. Rather it is an indication to administration that there is a weakness in the area requiring immediate attention and intervention.