



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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LITTLE ROCK: Twenty-five of Arkansas' 245 school districts are in some phase of district improvement under the federal No Child Left Behind laws as a result of their students' performance on the 2008 Arkansas Benchmark Exams.

Last year, 11 districts were categorized as being in district improvement.

A district is classified as being in district improvement when adequate yearly progress is not met. Adequate yearly progress is determined by the percentage of students scoring proficient or exhibiting growth toward proficiency on literacy and mathematics exams in three grade spans across the district. The grade spans are K-5, 6-8 and 9-12. The calculations also take into account the performance of students within the same populations that are used when calculating school improvement: white, African-American, Hispanic, economically disadvantaged, students with learning disabilities and English language learners.

A district is placed into district improvement when it has failed to make adequate yearly progress for two consecutive years. Likewise, districts must make adequate yearly progress for two consecutive years to be removed from the district improvement list. Five districts on the list last year have met the standards for adequate yearly progress this year and will be removed from the list next year if they are able to do so again next year. They are: Brinkley, Dollarway, McGehee, North Little Rock and Pulaski County Special.

Twenty districts are in year one of district improvement, four are in year two and one is in year three. The list of districts is available at <http://ArkansasEd.org/nclb/ayp.html#silist>.

Each year a school district fails to make adequate yearly progress, the district, in addition to any schools in the district that fail to make progress, must develop a district improvement plan that will include in-depth disaggregation of student performance data, the development of a district improvement plan, and development of a professional development plan specifically aligned with the identified needs of the entire district staff..

The Arkansas Department of Education strives to ensure that all children in the state have access to a quality education by providing educators, administrators and staff with leadership, resources and training.