

Dear Gusty Michael School Parent

August 17, 2012



In August, the state Department of Education & Early Development announced our school's standing with regards to meeting federal requirements for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for state tests taken in Spring 2012. The **Gusty Michael School DID MEET AYP**.

Under No Child Left Behind (NCLB), each state sets AYP goals for the percent of students that must be proficient on the state tests (Standards Based Assessment or SBAs) each year. By 2014, the AYP goal is that 100% of the students will be proficient on language arts (reading & writing) and math. For 2011 – 2012, Alaska's AYP goals for the percent of students that score proficient or above were: **Language Arts – 82.88 % and Math – 74.57%**. In order to make AYP, each of the following subgroups of students must meet the AYP goals: ethnicity, economically disadvantaged, students with disabilities, and students with limited English language proficiency. Schools must also meet an additional requirement of graduation rate of 85% (if they have students who were scheduled for graduation) **OR attendance rate of 85%** (for schools with no students eligible for graduation).

Specific information about the performance of each subgroup of students can be found on the Department of Education website at <http://www.eed.state.ak.us/> under "District AYP" and also at <http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/assessment/accountability.html>

Because of our small number of students tested, a "**Confidence Interval**" percentage (depending on the number of students) is added to the percent of students proficient. This adjusted percentage is then used to determine if the school has reached the AYP targets listed above. This helped us make AYP in Mathematics and Language Arts.

At **Gusty Michael School**, performance of the following subgroups is being reported:

- The School As A Whole
- Alaska Native & American Indian
- Economically Disadvantaged
- African American
- Caucasian
- Students with Disabilities
- Asian
- Multi-ethnic
- Limited English Proficient
- Hispanic

The AYP goals will increase in future years until all students are required to be proficient in 2014. In addition to AYP, each school as a whole and the subgroups must meet a participation rate for testing. 95% of students in a school must participate in testing for the school to meet AYP. We are pleased that **Gusty Michael School did meet AYP for participation.**

For 2011-2012, **Gusty Michael School did meet Adequate Yearly Progress for attendance rate, with a rate of 91.99%**. The graduation rate is figured based on a formula that takes into account the class who entered high school in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, dropouts from 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade, and the number of seniors that graduated with a regular diploma from that initial 9<sup>th</sup> grade class.

For 2011-2012, **Gusty Michael School did meet Adequate Yearly Progress for Language Arts and Math**. Despite making AYP, we must face the fact that most of our students still need to work hard to gain proficiency.

Following is a summary of the student groups and the percentage of proficient students:

<b>Student Group</b>	<b>Performance Area</b>	<b>Students Proficient</b>
<b>School as a Whole</b>	<b>Language Arts</b>	<b>100% (Met AYP)</b>
	<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>80% (Met AYP)</b>

For other subgroups the proficiency percentage was not reported because of the small number tested.

I am very pleased at the performance of our students and teachers in meeting Adequate Yearly Progress. I hope you will join me in congratulating them for this achievement and that you will continue supporting our success next year. We still have a significant number of students who did not reach proficiency in both Language Arts and Math, so our goal is 100% proficiency for all students. The entire staff of **Gusty Michael School** is behind this goal and the efforts of parents, students and the district office to make it happen.

Even though our school is not designated as “in improvement,” it is important for our school to continue to improve so that we continue to make AYP and provide a quality education for all students. We are in the process of developing our School Improvement Plan for **Gusty Michael School** to identify ways to strengthen instructional and support programs. Our school will be focusing on ways to close achievement gaps and bring every student to proficiency in reading, writing and math. Parents and community members are invited and encouraged to be a part of this process.

District level AYP is not yet available. Specific information on how our students scored district wide will be included in the District Report Card to the Public which will be sent in the next few weeks.

For more information on NCLB, please go to <http://www.eed.state.ak.us/nclb/>, or contact me. I hope you will join me in supporting our students and teachers as we work toward reaching our goals for the coming year. *Together we will make a difference!*

Sincerely,

Brad Allen  
Superintendent of Schools