

Dear George Morgan Sr. High School Parent

August 19, 2011



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 2011. The **George Morgan Sr. Senior High School did not 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 2010 – 2011, Alaska's AYP goals for the percent of students that score proficient or above were raised to: **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>

At **George Morgan Sr. Senior High 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 **George Morgan Sr. Senior High School did meet AYP for participation.**

For 2010-2011, **George Morgan Sr. Senior High School did not meet Adequate Yearly Progress for graduation with a graduation rate of 33.3%**. The graduation rate is figured based on a formula that takes into account the class who entered high school in the 9th grade, dropouts from 9th-12th grade, and the number of seniors that graduated with a regular diploma from that initial 9th grade class.

For 2010-2011, **George Morgan Sr. Senior High School did not meet Adequate Yearly Progress for Language Arts but did meet Adequate Yearly Progress for Math through Safe Harbor.** The **Safe Harbor** provision under NCLB means that even though one of our subgroups of students did not meet the stated AYP goals, because the number of students who were not proficient decreased by at least ten percent from the prior year, the "safe harbor" provision allows the school to meet AYP. This helped us make AYP in Mathematics.

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

Student Group	Performance Area	Students Proficient
School as a Whole	Language Arts	36% (Did Not Meet AYP)
	Math	36% (Did Meet AYP by Safe Harbor)
Alaska Native & American Indian	Language Arts	33% (Did Not Meet AYP)
	Math	33% (Did Meet AYP by Safe Harbor)

Because **George Morgan Sr. Senior High School** is a Title I school and has not made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for over 5 years, we will be designated as a Level 5, year 5 School in Restructuring for the 2011 – 2012 school year. We are required to continue to review and revise our School Improvement Plan to identify ways to strengthen instructional support programs for our students and submit our plan to the district for approval. 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. If you are interested in participating in the School Improvement plans, please contact your principal.

In addition, the district will continue to implement a restructuring plan for alternative governance for our school that was previously developed. This plan includes the formation and operation of a School Improvement Committee, which will meet to discuss strategies for improving student performance.

Qualifying students will be offered supplemental educational services (free tutoring) targeted at helping each child reach state academic standards. Parents of qualifying students will be receiving a special letter providing more information about the free tutoring that may be available to their child.

Our goal is 100% proficiency for all students. The entire staff of **George Morgan Sr. Senior High School** is behind this goal and the efforts of parents, students and the district office to make it happen.

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