

## **Definition of Terms Used in School and District Classifications**

### **Met AYP**

School has met all 37 targets either through AMO (4), Safe Harbor (5) or minimum N (1).

### **Caution:**

A school meeting AYP in the previous year and currently satisfying the AYP requirement for school-wide mathematics and school-wide ELA will receive the label **Caution** if not more than three AYP targets have been missed. If the number of targets missed exceeds three, the school's label will be **Insufficient Progress**. A school cannot receive a "Caution" label if it was "In Need of Improvement" or "caution" in the prior year.

### **Insufficient Progress**

Schools are classified as making "Insufficient Progress" if they have missed any of the 37 NCLB targets and are not labeled as "caution".

### **Met AYP and Commended**

Revised criteria for a school to receive the label of "Commended" were implemented for the 2007-08 classifications and remain unchanged for 2009-10. One condition for commendation is that a school must meet AYP (adequate yearly progress) by passing all evaluated targets. In addition, a school cannot be commended if it is still regarded by the state as a school "In Need of Improvement" (as defined in Figure 9 on page 18 and not to be confused with prior labeling schema referenced in the preceding section). This includes schools that have a "delay" status, meaning it met all of its targets for the current year but not for two consecutive years. Remaining schools may enter a commended status by meeting any one of three alternative sets of conditions. Schools meeting at least one of the following criteria are reported as "Met AYP and Commended:"

### **Closing Equity Gaps:**

Schools with demographic/program diversity are defined as schools where at least three NCLB disaggregation subgroups are large enough to be evaluated against NCLB targets. A diverse school may be commended if three or more subgroups have a gain in their index score which is at least two points higher than the statewide gain for all students. A school must meet this condition for both English language arts and mathematics.

### **Significant Improvement:**

A school may be commended if it has passed AYP for two consecutive years and has increased its schoolwide index score by at least 1.5 points for two consecutive testing cycles. Thus, for the 2008-09 classification, schools would need to increase their index score by at least 1.5 points from 2006-07 to 2007-08 and from school year 2007-08 to 2008-09. These gain scores must be achieved in both English language arts and mathematics.

### **High Achievement:**

Based on their computed index score for ELA and mathematics, schools must be in the top 10 percent of all schools for two consecutive years in both English language arts and mathematics. Elementary schools, middle schools and high schools are ranked independently.

An additional qualification applies to high schools. A high school cannot be commended if it is within a school district with an "approval withheld" status regarding the acceptability of its High School Diploma System.