



**East Allegheny  
School District**

**Annual District  
Report Card**

*Striving For  
Excellence In  
Education*

2008



## ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Roger D’Emidio, Superintendent

Ms. Toni Valicenti, Director of Fiscal Affairs

Mr. Mark Draskovich, Director of Pupil Personnel/  
Federal Programs

Dr. Ray Milke, Psychologist

Mr. Gary Peiffer, Middle/High School  
Principal

Mr. Raymond Morton, Assistant Middle/High  
School Principal

Mrs. Harriet Hopper, Logan Middle School  
Principal

Mr. Sean Gildea, Green Valley Primary/Early  
Learning Center Principal

### Important Phone Numbers

Administrative Office	412-824-8012
EA Jr./Sr. High School	412-824-9700
Logan Middle School	412-824-6053
Green Valley Primary	412-673-9737

### East Allegheny Website

www.eawildcats.net

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The links below will provide additional information regarding the PSSA tests, AYP and East Allegheny School District’s performance.

### **East Allegheny Academic Achievement Report— PDE:**

<http://www.paayp.com/district.jsp>

### **Pennsylvania Accountability System**

<http://www.pde.state.pa.us/pas/site/default.asp>

### **2008 AYP**

[http://www.pde.state.pa.us/pas/cwp/view.asp?  
a=3&Q=139975&pasNav=|10887|&pasNav=|6326|](http://www.pde.state.pa.us/pas/cwp/view.asp?a=3&Q=139975&pasNav=|10887|&pasNav=|6326|)

### **State, District and School Report Cards**

[http://www.pde.state.pa.us/pas/cwp/view.asp?  
a=3&Q=95497&pasNav=|6150|&pasNav=|](http://www.pde.state.pa.us/pas/cwp/view.asp?a=3&Q=95497&pasNav=|6150|&pasNav=|)

### **Pennsylvania Department of Education**

[http://www.pde.state.pa.us/pde\\_internet/site/  
default.asp?g=0](http://www.pde.state.pa.us/pde_internet/site/default.asp?g=0)

In Summary

The mission of the East Allegheny School District is to recognize that each student is unique and that, through cooperation with parents, communities and schools, each student will have educational opportunities to achieve individual success within district fiscal constraints.

Parents and community members are always welcome in our schools. If you have any questions regarding the information contained in this report, please feel free to call the Administrative Offices.

SCHOOL BOARD

Ms. Karen Hensler, President  
Mrs. Gerri McCullough, Vice President  
*To be named, Treasurer*

Mrs. Dolores Brown  
Mrs. Roxanne Eichler  
Mr. William Gates  
Mrs. Beverly Koch  
Mr. Vincent Paradine  
Mr. Frank Pearsol

The East Allegheny School District Board of Education meets the first and second Monday of each month. The first meeting is designated as the committee meeting to set the agenda and the second Monday is the regular voting meeting. The committee meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. and the regular board meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. All meetings are open to the public.



History of the  
No Child Left Behind  
Act of 2001

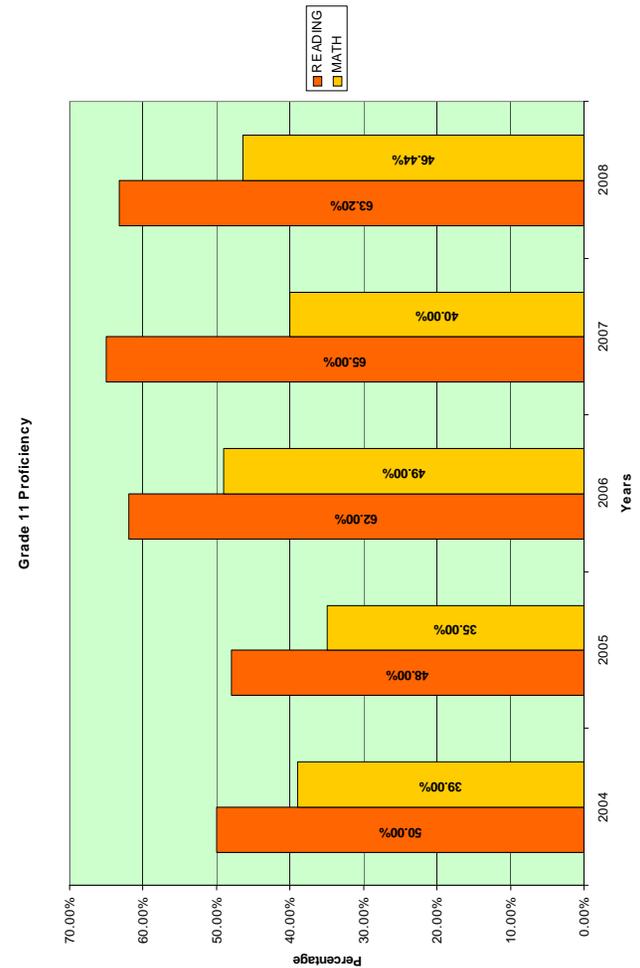
The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation was passed in 2001 by the Federal Government. This law is based upon the belief that all children can learn to high standards and upon the conviction that all children can and will demonstrate continuous improvement each year in reading and math.

The Law

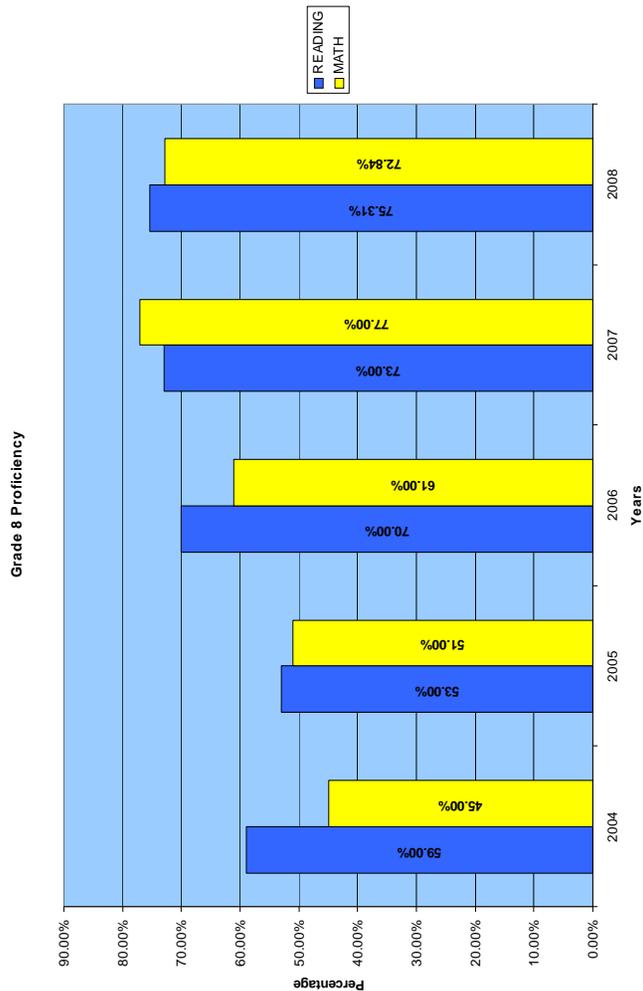
The NCLB law mandates that each state adopt challenging academic content standards in Reading and Math by 2002-2003 and Science standards must be in place by 2005-2006. These standards must be applied to **all** students. As a result, each state was required to develop a test, aligned with the standards, to be used as the primary indicator of students' **Adequate Yearly Progress**. The PA Department of Education has determined that the PSSA Test will be its primary indicator of the adequate yearly progress and has been deemed as the single, statewide accountability system for all children in the state of Pennsylvania. The NCLB law also mandates that a minimum of 95% of all students in each district participate in the test.

According to NCLB, the data from the PSSA Test must be reported by school district, school building, and gender as well as by several additional subgroups. The subgroups include economically disadvantaged

GRADE 11 PROFICIENCY  
READING & MATH



GRADE 8 PROFICIENCY  
READING & MATH



students, racial and ethnic students, students with disabilities, limited English proficient students, and migrant students. Adequate Yearly Progress must be evident in an overall school and in all subgroups within the school district.

The NCLB Act of 2001 also mandates that each state use additional non-academic indicators of Adequate Yearly Progress. The State Board of Pennsylvania has determined that the attendance for all students in grade K-8 should be 90% and the graduation rate of all students in grades 9-12 must be at 80% in order for each school to meet Adequate Yearly Progress, or any improvement from the year before.

**Adequate Yearly Progress**

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) is defined as “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 schools must achieve each year. Assessments must be used as the primary measure of AYP.

In May 2001, the State Board of PA adopted four levels and descriptors of achievement standards. The four achievement levels have been identified as:

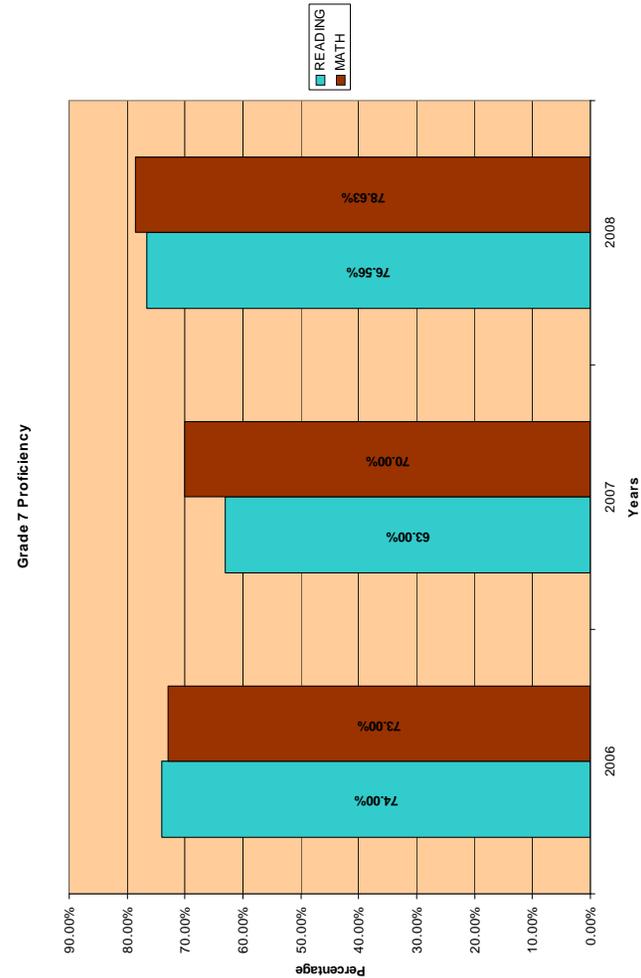
- **Below Basic**
- **Basic**
- **Proficient**
- **Advanced**

Proficiency is defined as “satisfactory academic performance indicating a solid understanding and adequate display of the skills included in the academic standards.” It is the goal and the intent of NCLB to ensure that **all students** (by 2013-2014) will demonstrate achievement of the academic standards at the Proficient or Advanced level.

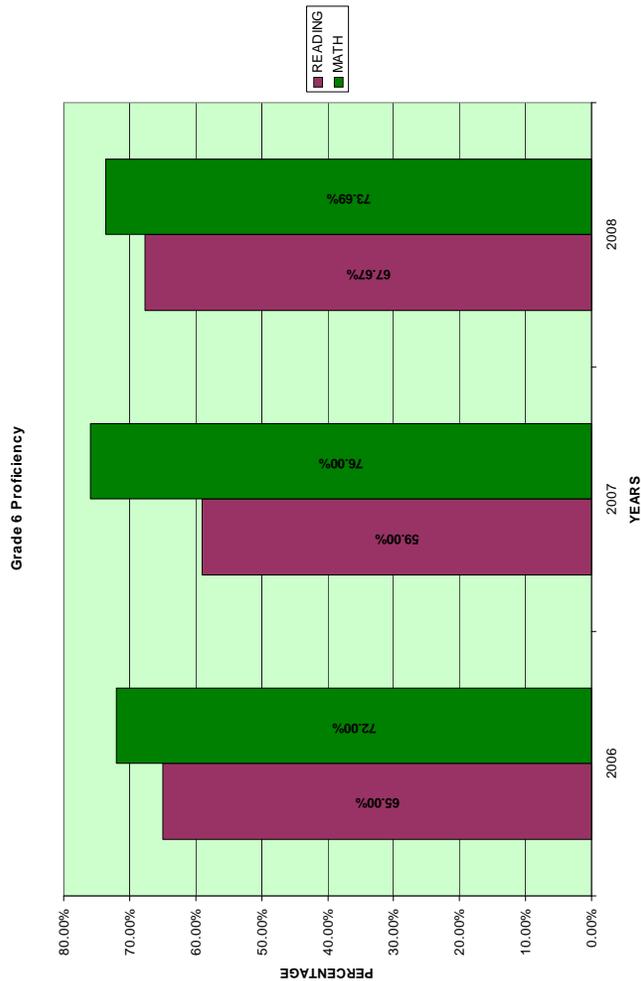
In order to determine AYP, the State Board has determined a baseline for proficiency. From the baseline, a target has been set. That target is for 2006-2007 in reading is 54% and in math, 45%. That means that 54% or 45% of all students must show proficiency on the assessment, in reading and math, respectively. Each year, the target will increase in reading and math. This target and increase each year applies to each school and each subgroup of students within the school. If **any school** or **any subgroup** within the school scores below the target, the school will be identified as not achieving AYP.

PSSA Assessments are administered to all children in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 11 in Reading and Math in the spring of each school year. Writing assessments are administered each spring to all students in grades 5, 8, and 11. The data from these assessments, in addition to the attendance rate of all students in grades K-8 and the graduation rate of all students in grades 9-12, determine whether the school and all subgroups within the school have made AYP. Prior to the start of each school year, the PA Department of Education releases the AYP of all schools in the state and their status based on the PSSA data from the previous spring.

### GRADE 7 PROFICIENCY READING & MATH



GRADE 6 PROFICIENCY  
READING & MATH



Accountability and Sanctions

Based on the PSSA data, all schools in the state are listed and their status is designated as one of the following:

- Meeting AYP Targets
- Making Progress (but still on a School Improvement or Corrective Action List)
- Did not make AYP and given a Warning (1st year of missing AYP)
- In School Improvement 1 or 2 (failure to make AYP for 2/3 consecutive years)
- In Corrective Action 1 or 2 (failure to make AYP for 4/5 consecutive years)

If a school district or any subgroup of a school district is listed in the School Improvement or in the Corrective Action Categories, very specific sanctions and corrective action requirements are placed on the school by the PA Department of Education. In addition, school districts are required, upon request, to share AYP information with parents and community members.

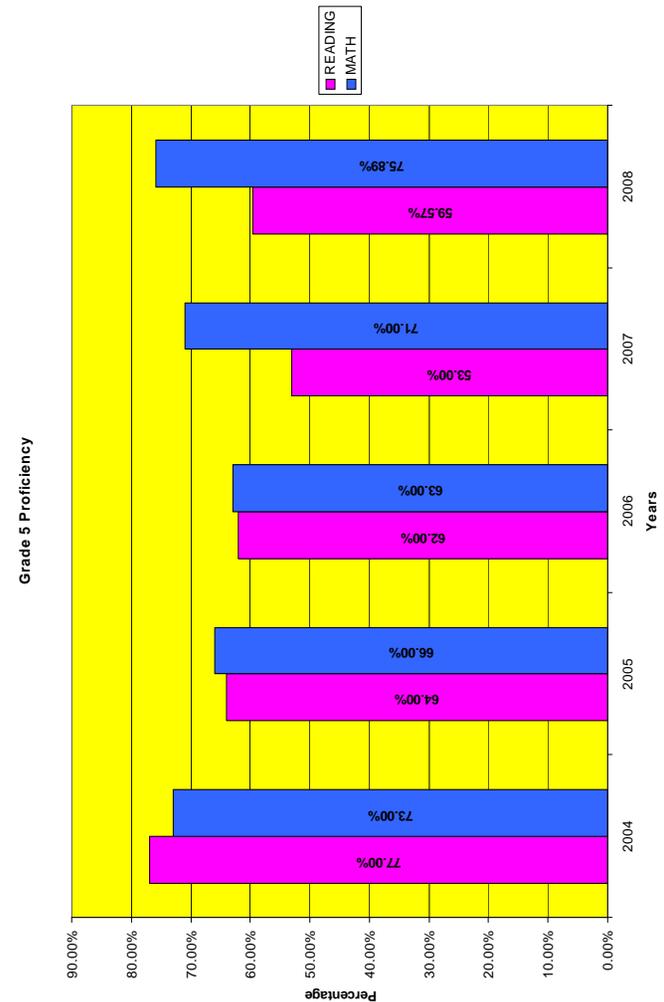


Under the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB)*, school districts are required to provide parents and community members with a detailed report about student achievement in their schools. This report contains data taken from the 2004, 2005 and 2006 Pennsylvania

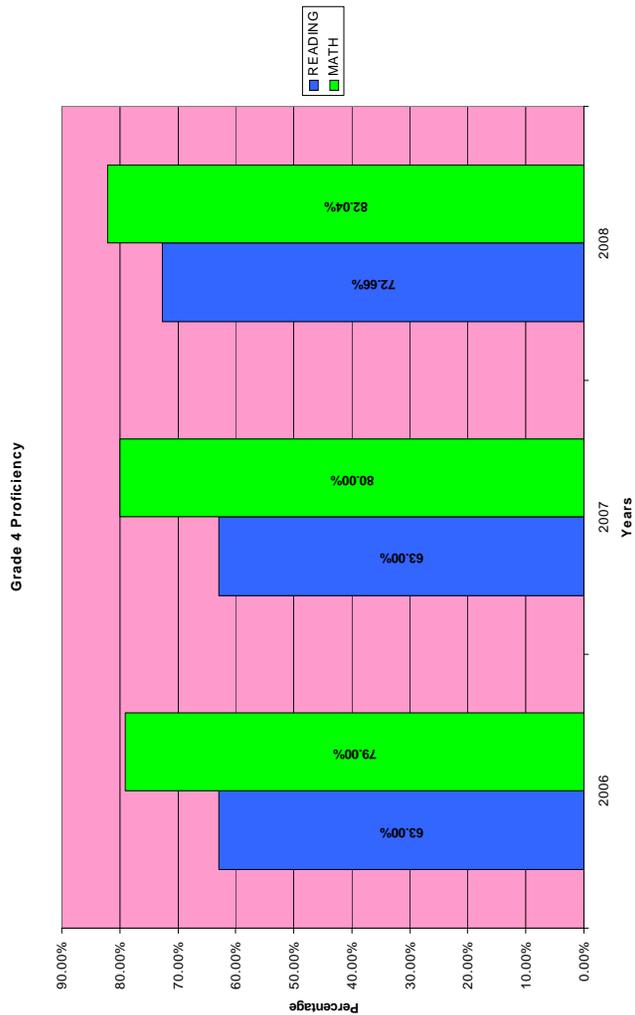
System of School Assessment (PSSA) Tests. Students in grades 3, 5, 8, and 11, were tested in Mathematics and Reading. It also includes data taken from the 2006 PSSA tests for the additional grades of 4, 6 and 7. The intent of NCLB is to ensure that every child regardless of their background is achieving, student achievement data is provided by race, ethnicity, gender, English language proficiency (students whose native language is not English), migrant status, disability status and low-income status. The report also contains information about the attendance of students in grades kindergarten through eight and the graduation rate of high school students.

The report lists the percentage of students in the district, the school and in each subgroup who are achieving at the *Advanced + Proficient* level compared with students in the state. Students at the *Proficient* level have demonstrated a solid understanding and an adequate display of skills included in the Pennsylvania Academic Standards. Standards define what each student should know and do in a core set of subjects. Students at the *Advanced* level have demonstrated superior academic performance indicating an in-depth understanding and exemplary display of the skills. The goal of No Child Left Behind is to have every student at the *Proficient* level by the year 2014. Every year schools are expected to make *Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)*

### GRADE 5 PROFICIENCY READING & MATH



GRADE 4 PROFICIENCY  
READING & MATH



Pennsylvania established the following AYP targets for 2006-2007:

- 54% of students proficient or above in reading
- 45% of students proficient or above in math
- 95% student participation in the PSSA
- Improvement in attendance/graduation rates

If a school or district does not meet its AYP in the first year, it is placed in “warning” status. Warning means that the school fell short of the AYP targets but has another year to achieve them. If a school does not meet AYP for two consecutive years, it is designated as needing improvement and is placed in the School Improvement I category. With each year that follows, if the school does not meet AYP, it moves through a progression of categories—School Improvement II, Corrective Action I, and Corrective Action II. Each of these categories requires action on the part of the school district and communication to parents.

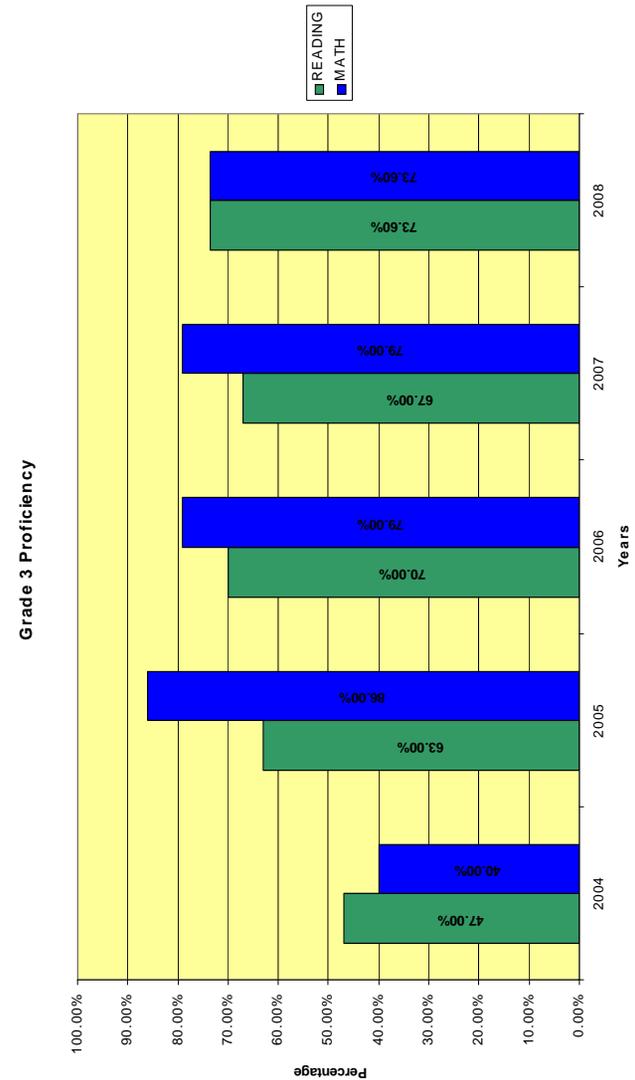
Because a single test cannot provide a fair picture of whether or not a school is in need of improvement, our district report card provides other indicators of student achievement as well as district strategies for developing well-rounded, academically successful students.

**The School District**

The East Allegheny School District is comprised of the communities of North Versailles, East McKeesport, Wilmerding, and Wall. There are approximately 2,000 students in grades K-12 in the District. East Allegheny is comprised of three separate buildings. Green Valley Primary School houses students in grades 1 through 3. Students in grades 4 through 8 attend the new Logan Middle School and the Junior/Senior High School serves the students in grades 9 through 12. We have created an Early Learning Center (ELC) on the second floor, segregated wing, of the high school building serving students in pre-school and kindergarten. Students attending East Allegheny School District come from varied ethnic, social and economic backgrounds. The District is unique in that both rural and urban cultures exist within its communities.

The East Allegheny School District is proud of our academic accomplishments in the 2007-2008 school year and for reaching AYP in all but one tested grade levels. The District is committed to supporting student achievement. Academic contents are aligned with the State standards and teachers deliver rigorous instruction to prepare student to be successful at each and every grade level. Content is interdisciplinary and all teachers incorporate state standards into their classrooms. Teachers use data to continually analyze student achievement and plan instruction to meet the state goals. This focus and commitment by the teachers, administration and Board has contributed to the increased success at East Allegheny.

**GRADE 3 PROFICIENCY  
READING & MATH**



with the following options:

Students will attend the sessions after school and take the 3:30 p.m. bus home. All sessions conclude at 3:30 p.m. If students do not fulfill the required hours during the week, the student must attend a Saturday session, which would be four hours in length. No transportation is provided.

Students that do not attend the tutoring sessions and do not make up the hours during the Saturday session and have missed at least four hours will be pulled from one of their electives and placed in a reading or math remediation course.

The student will be required to attend a summer session to make up the hours prior to being promoted to the next grade level.

This program shall service those students with the greatest need and is funded with a \$66,000 PDE grant.

### **East Allegheny District Wide PSSA Scores**

The following graphs give a visual representation of our students' scores on the PSSA Tests that were administered last year. The students in the East Allegheny School district are making significant progress toward achieving Adequate Yearly Progress in the PA Academic Standards.

The graph on the next page also offers a comparison of EA Students' scores with students' scores throughout the state of Pennsylvania.

### **East Allegheny Middle/High School**

The Junior/Senior High School successfully transitioned approximately 64 Duquesne City High School students in grades 9-12 for the 2007-2008 school year after the Secretary of Education closed their high school. For the 2008-2009 school year, we are expecting approximately 23 students from DCSD into our 9th grade.

Several policies were updated to address concerns relative to the use of cell phones in the schools, the dress code of the students and student discipline. The Junior/Senior High School has an extensive anti-bullying program in place and teachers are trained at various times over the course of the school year on how to handle bullying. The East Allegheny School District has a zero tolerance for bullying.

JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL AYP INFORMATION

District #/ School #	District Name/ School Name	Inst t	Title	Made AYP	2003 Stat us	2004 Stat us	2005 Stat us	2006 Status	2007 Status	2008 Status
103022 803	EAST ALLE- GHENY SD			Y *SHC I	W	M AYP	W	Made AYP	Made AYP	Made AYP
5193	EAST ALLE- GHENY JSHS	1		N	SI1	MP	SI2	Making Pro- gress: in School Im- provement II	Made AYP	Warning

students not scoring advanced or proficient status, the following remediation plan must be completed in order to graduate from the East Allegheny School District.

The student must enroll and successfully complete either a reading and/or math course during their senior year in the area(s) of the PSSA where advanced or proficient status was not attained. Should the student achieve advanced or proficient status, as validated by his/her PSSA retest in their senior year, the student will be withdrawn from the extra reading and/or math course at the end of the first semester.

All students failing to score advanced or proficient status in their junior year will be required to take the PSSA retest in the fall of their senior year. Should the student not perform at the advance or proficient level on the retest, the student shall remain in the additional math and/or reading course and successfully complete a project during the second semester. The project shall be directly associated with the content area that the student did not perform advanced or proficient. If the student fails to complete all course work, including the project, the student shall not be permitted to graduate. If the student completes the course project at the advanced or proficient level, the student shall have earned graduation status.

MANDATORY AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING  
GRADES 7, 8, 10 AND 11

Those students who have been identified as basic and below basic on their PSSA tests and in combination with student results on the Scantron evaluation program, shall be required to attend at least forty-five (45) hours of after school tutoring during the school year

**East Allegheny School District**

**PSSA Intervention Plan**

In November of 2005, the East Allegheny Board of School Directors adopted the PSSA Intervention Plan as listed below. The belief is that this plan will help our students be successful on the PSSA tests.

**PSSA INTERVENTION JUNIOR STUDENTS**

With the current state requirements relative to the PSSA and the states' edict that all students score advanced or proficient, there are no consequences in place for those students performing at basic or below basic levels. At the present time, the only individuals being held accountable are the teachers and administrators. We believe that in order to meet the state mandates, students must be held accountable for their own learning and failure to require their accountability will lead to less than acceptable academic achievement in our school district. Although we may or may not agree with the state and federal governments' edicts, it nonetheless is the tool being utilized to measure both the students' and the district's academic success and/or failure. The Administration, as well as the professional staff and I, feel as though this is a monumental first step. Failure to enact these recommendations will more than likely result in continued failure of our students and district.

All juniors, beginning with the 2005-2006 junior class, will be expected to perform at the proficient or advanced level on the PSSA. The district recognizes the responsibility to ensure that all of its students achieve advanced or proficient status on the PSSA. For those

**Logan Middle School**

Our new Logan Middle School will replace the Westinghouse building and house grades 4-8. Students will begin the 2008-2009 school year at the new building. Grades 4-6 will be on the second floor of the building while 7th and 8th grade students will be on the first floor.

**Westinghouse Elementary School**

For the 2007-2008 school year, Westinghouse students made AYP in all tested grades.

For the 2008-2009 school year, our new alternative education day school will be housed on one floor of the Westinghouse building, however, it will remain as a program of the high school.

### Green Valley Primary School

The Green Valley Primary School was recognized by the Pennsylvania Department of Education as a primary level feeder school that made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets based on data from the fifth grade students in the East Allegheny School District.

Green Valley now houses grades 1-3. Third grade participated in the PSSA test for the 2007-2008 year and made AYP.

### Early Learning Center

Our new pre-school program along with kindergarten will be housed on the second floor segregated wing of the high school, creating an Early Learning Center (ELC). The ELC will have a nurse's aide to assist the children with medications and first aid. The entrance to the ELC is on the side of the main building. The construction of a new playground is underway to ensure the students have a safe place for recess.

### District Wide Investments

#### Curriculum Materials and Programs Currently in Place

- Harcourt Elementary Reading Program/Books K-6
- Scott Foresman Mathematics Books
- Scott Foresman Investigations
- Prentice Hall Reading books/Program 7-12

#### Technology Programs

- Compass Learning (Grades 3-6)
- Odyssey (Web based program grades K-6)
- Accelerated Reader (Grades K-6)
- Imagination Station (K)
- Apangea (Grades 7-11)
- Academy of Reading (Grades 7-8)
- Scantron (Grades 7, 8, 9, 11)
- PLATO—on-line courses (Grades 9-12)

#### Grants Received

- EAP Tutoring Grant (\$60,000)
- Accountability Block Grant—2008 amount to be determined
- Dual Enrollment Grant
- Classrooms for the Future—2008 amount to be determined

7. According to NCLB, the quality of the instructional staff has a significant impact on student achievement. All teachers in the East Allegheny School District have been deemed “highly qualified.”

EAST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT AYP REPORT

District #/ School #	District Name/ School Name	Ins t	Title	Made AYP	2003 Statu s	2004 Statu s	2005 Statu s	2006 Status	2007 Status	2008 Status
103022 803	EAST ALLE- GHENY SD			Y *SHC I	W	IM AYP	W	Made AYP	Made AYP	Made AYP
0542	GREEN VALLEY EL SCH	1	TA	Y *CI				Made AYP	Made AYP	Made AYP
5193	EAST ALLE- GHENY JSHS	1		N	SI1	MP	SI2	Making Pro- gress: in School Im- provement II	Made AYP	Warning
6100	WESTINGHOUSE EL SCH	1	TA	Y *PR	IM AYP	IM AYP	IM AYP	Made AYP	Warning	Made AYP

## District-wide Initiatives

The East Allegheny School District is committed to raising the levels of academic achievement and increasing the attendance and graduation rates of all students within the district. The School Board of Directors, the Administration, the Faculty and the Support Staff are working as a team to set high expectations and to provide academic challenges for all students and to provide the necessary support for all students to reach our AYP targets each year. The following initiatives are examples of our quest for excellence in academic achievement.

1. Teachers use the PA academic standards to drive instruction. At the beginning of each school year, teachers administer a computer driven district assessment test designed to identify prior knowledge and see what each student knows for the upcoming grade level content. A detailed analysis is provided to the teacher including information on individual student strengths and weaknesses as well as data that takes a look at content by standard. Using this data, teachers meet in teams to develop a standards based curriculum plan for the school year. Mid-year, the same test is administered providing teachers with data to review student progress. This continual use of data allows teachers to utilize resources in the most effective way to meet student's academic needs. By the end of the year, all students are prepared to be successful on the PSSA tests.
2. A school wide tutoring program has been put into place in each of the three district buildings. Every

member of the faculty is available to tutor small groups of students on individual needs at least one time per week after school.

3. Several computer labs are in place to provide greater access to technology for students.
4. The East Allegheny School District has implemented a web-based grading system known as GradeQuick. Parents will have access to their child's attendance record as well as their child's grades in each subject area from their home computers in the very near future. Parents will have the opportunity to track their child's progress at any given time and at their convenience.
5. The EdInsight/On-Hand Schools initiative, through a partnership with the University of Pittsburgh, is a data management program that gives the district the capability to track the academic progress of all students. Additionally, it will enable us to track subgroups, which may be the same subgroups that are identified in the NCLB law: minority students, gender, economically disadvantaged students, and special needs students. Often, these subgroups of students are those in greatest need for individualized instruction. This data will enable instructional strategies to be modified according to the needs and learning styles of all students, especially those at risk.
6. The District is in the process of revising the mathematics the curriculum to align with the PA Academic Standards and PSSA Anchors.