
MEREDITH HILL MESSENGER

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No Child Left Behind: What Is ‘Adequate Yearly Progress’?

“No Child Left Behind” is the nickname given to the congressional act of 2001 which outlines regulations that schools must meet in order to receive federal monies. A major focus of the bill is a requirement that public schools have 100 percent of their students meeting state standards by 2014. So what does this mean for Washington State Schools and for Federal Way Schools? And more importantly, what does it mean for my child’s school?

What is AYP? Our state has identified yearly targets for all public elementary, middle and high schools. These targets are known as “Adequate Yearly Progress,” or AYP. If schools meet these goals each year, they will be on track for getting 100 percent of students to standard by 2014.

How is AYP assessed? AYP is assessed for each individual school, for the school district, and for the state. AYP is determined by three measures: (1) average student performance on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL); (2) student participation rates on the WASL; and (3) attendance rates (for grades 1-8) or graduation rates (for grades 9-12).

What are the AYP targets for our state? Following are the state targets which define adequate yearly progress for 2005-2007. Every three years the WASL targets increase, moving toward the 2014 goal of “all students meeting standard.” The WASL targets must be met in both reading and math by all students and by eight sub-groups of students (American Indian, Asian/ Pacific Islander, Black, Hispanic, White, Special Education, Limited English, and Low Income). The attendance and graduation rates are figured only for “all students.”

Adequate Yearly Progress Targets for 2005-2007

	% Proficient in Reading (2005-07)	% Proficient in Math (2005-07)	% Participation in Reading	% Participation in Math	% Unex. Ab. Or Grad. Rate
WA Elem. Schools- Grade 4 WASL	64.2%	47.3%	95%	95%	1% or less Unex. Ab.
WA Middle Schools- Gr. 7 WASL	47.6%	38.0%	95%	95%	1% or less Unex. Ab.
WA High Schools- H.S. WASL	61.5%	43.6%	95%	95%	66% Grad. Rate

How are AYP results calculated? AYP results may be very different than the WASL results reported for a school or district. AYP results include only students who have been continuously enrolled from October 1 through the WASL administration. Also, scores are reported only in categories which have 30 or more students in order to assure statistical reliability. In addition, a “standard error” margin is added to the percentage of students meeting standard, again to assure statistical reliability. These complicated calculations are determined at the district and state level, and reported to individual schools.

Are AYP targets the same for all schools? The main target is the same for every school in the state: All students “proficient” by 2014. Schools which do not make AYP will be given “safe harbor” if they make a 10% gain in each area reported. Also, up to 1% of students may take an alternate portfolio assessment in place of the WASL assessment.

What happens if a school fails to make AYP? Schools are identified for “School Improvement” after two consecutive years of not making AYP. While this labeling applies to all schools, the other sanctions apply only to schools receiving federal Title I funds. In their third year of failing to meet their AYP goals, schools must: •adopt a two-year improvement plan; •invest in professional development for teachers; •notify parents of their “School Improvement” status; and •give parents the option to transfer their children to a higher-performing public school within the district (with the district using its Title I funds to pay for transportation). Priority transfers will go to the lowest-achieving low-income students. A timeline of additional consequences has been established for Title I schools who continue to fall short of their AYP goals.

Is my school making adequate yearly progress? Meredith Hill was reported as meeting all AYP goals for 2005. OSPI (the Office of the Superintendent for Public Instruction) has provided school, district and state report cards on-line that show student progress toward meeting our state’s educational standards. To view our district and school report card, go to reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us

It is important that parents understand the expectations for their children and their children’s schools. If you have questions, or wish to discuss this information, please call me at 253-945-3200.

Sincerely,
Cindy Kelsey, Principal

Wanted: School Bus Drivers!

Federal Way Public Schools’ Transportation Department is looking for good drivers to join their team. Individuals interested in becoming substitute bus drivers should go to the Human Resources Department at the Education Services Center, 31405 18th Avenue South, Federal Way, to pick up an application. A copy of the applicant’s five-year complete driving abstract will need to be provided with the completed application, and can be obtained from the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Driving a school bus can be a wonderful part-time job, offering the same schedule as school children, complete with summers and holidays off. The district provides the necessary training. For more information, please call the training office at 253-945-5943 or 253-945-5952.

Student Contest Winners Announced

The MLK Celebration Committee has announced the winners in its annual student contest program. The contests were open to all Federal Way Public Schools’ students and home school students living within the boundaries of the Federal Way School District. Students were asked to incorporate the theme of this year’s celebration, “Investing In Our Future”, into their projects.

Congratulations to Meredith Hill's 4th grade student, Thomas, who has been awarded third place for his poster. Thomas' and other winning entries will be featured in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration on Monday, January 16th.

Meet the Federal Way Public Academy

Federal Way Public Academy (FWPA) is a school of choice for students entering grades 6 through 10 in the Federal Way Public School District. Federal Way Public Academy is a very different school. The mission of the school is to provide a challenging, college preparatory curriculum for students in all grades. Families interested in a rigorous academic program for their child are enthusiastically encouraged to explore this educational choice option.

The Academy has been in existence since 1999, and has been a popular choice for parents who are seeking a college preparatory education in a small school setting for their child(ren). The school's current enrollment is around 300 students, and we anticipate offering placement to 62 new sixth graders, as well as a few additional placements in the other grade levels.

Annually, FWPA Principal, staff, students and parents invite prospective families to the school's "Information Nights" for presentations, and a question and answer session intended to help them determine if this school is a good match for prospective students. This school year's presentations will be held 6:30 - 8:00 pm, Tuesday, January 10 and Thursday, March 2, 2006.

We are extremely proud of our academic program and the school's achievement record. To be included in the District's lottery and apply for your child's fall, 2006 placement in any of the grades 6 through 10, the Federal Way Public School CHOICE Enrollment process *MUST* be followed. "Change of School Enrollment Application" forms are available at the school district Education Service Center (ESC) and all schools in the district after the beginning of January. The completed form must be delivered by the March 10, 2006 deadline, *ONLY* to the ESC. For more detailed information about the CHOICE process, visit the district websites at www.fwps.org or www.fwps.org/pa.

JANUARY Calendar

- 12– WASL Coaches' Training 9:15-10:15
Cookie Day
- 13– Martin Luther King Assembly/
Reflections Awards
10:00 am
- 16– NO School
Martin Luther King Holiday
- 26– End of Semester
Cookie Day
- 27– NO School-- Semester Break

FEBRUARY Calendar

- 3– PTA Karaoke Family Night
- 7– Report Cards Go Home
- 9– Cookie Day

MLK Community Celebration

The Annual Federal Way Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration is set for Monday, January 16, 2006, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Decatur High School Performing Arts Center, 2800 SW 320th St.

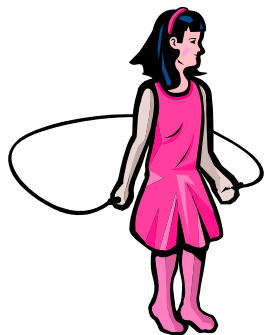
The theme for this year's event is "Investing In Our Future". The program will feature a unique range of musical entertainment that includes the Ajabu African Dance Ensemble, Maria Morca and the Dances of Spain, and flamenco guitarist and composer Joel Kabakov.

The volunteer-run event is managed by the Federal Way Diversity Commission and the MLK Celebration Committee. The yearly celebration has become an important tradition and affords the community an opportunity to come together in spirit and purpose. This year, the Diversity Commission has expanded its concept by including two new events that will occur during that same weekend. Admission to the Martin Luther King Celebration is free and the event is suitable for all ages. For more information, call the Diversity Commission at (253) 835-2402.

Jump Rope for Heart

On Monday, February 6th, through Friday, February 10th, our school is holding a Jump Rope for Heart event to raise funds for the American Heart Association during Physical Education classes.

This event offers many benefits. First, the money our school raises will help fund potentially lifesaving research into heart and blood vessel disease and stroke, our nation's No. 1 and No. 3 killers. It will also fund the development of educational materials that teach the importance of heart health and staying fit. Our school also earns gift certificates for Physical Education equipment.



A permission slip is only required if your child would like to participate in the fundraising efforts for this event. This permission slip can be found on the flap of the Participant Collection Envelope.

If you have any questions about the Jump Rope for Heart event, please contact T.J. Navilio at tnavilio@fvps.org or call 253-945-3221.

WASL Testing Schedule

All third, fourth, and fifth grade students will be involved in WASL testing this year. At Meredith Hill, testing will take place most every day between April 17th and May 4th. Please avoid making vacation plans or doctor's appointments during this three-week period. It is very important that every child take the test and have adequate time each day to do their best on the tests.

**No School on Jan. 16th-
Martin Luther King Holiday**

**No School on Jan. 27th-
Semester Break!**

Semester Report Cards

You may remember that we are following a new schedule to report student progress to parents--a semester report card, and a middle of the semester progress report. At the October Student Led Conference, you received the first Progress Report that indicated your child's progress in reading and math. The end of the semester is coming soon--January 26th! A complete Report Card will be sent to you on Tuesday, February 7. It will include reading, math, writing, science, social studies, arts, PE, and music. The reports to you will indicate where your child is in terms of meeting standards in each of the subject areas. In March, you will receive a Progress Report for math and reading, and in June, the final Report Card.

Martin Luther King Celebration at Meredith Hill



Please join us in celebrating Martin Luther King and his work during an all-school assembly at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, January 13th. All classrooms will be participating and contributing to the program. We would love for you to be present for this special assembly!