

A.A.S.D. Elementary Schools

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND - PARENT NEWSLETTER (Edition # 4)

As discussed in the previous newsletter (Edition # 3), all schools must prove that its students are making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) toward reaching State goals as measured by the PSSA tests.

What if a school does not improve?

The *No Child Left Behind Act* lays out an action plan and timetable for steps to be taken when a school fails to improve. If a school does not make its AYP for two consecutive years, the school is identified as *needing improvement*. The school is given assistance to improve and the parents are given options, as well. If the school continues to fail to meet its AYP, other interventions are put in place. The parents will be informed of their options and opportunities to assist the school throughout this process.

How are teachers or schools that do well rewarded?

No Child Left Behind requires the state to provide academic achievement awards to schools that exceed academic achievement goals. States may also use funds to financially reward teachers in schools that receive awards. In addition, states must designate *distinguished schools*, those that have made the greatest gains in closing the achievement gap or in exceeding achievement goals.

PSSA TESTING

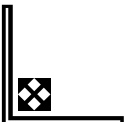
Pennsylvania uses the PSSA testing to determine the AYP of a school and the school district. The following tests will be given to all third and fifth grade students in the Altoona Area School District sometime between March 22nd and April 2nd.

Third Grade - Math & Reading
Fifth Grade - Math & Reading

TIPS FOR PARENTS

(Source: *The Achiever*, Sept. 15, 2003, nclb.gov)

These tips may help boost your child's reading skills and make reading fun:

- **Get a library card for your child.** Children love seeing their names on the cards and choosing books they either want to read or have read to them.
 - **Read with your child for at least 20 minutes every night.** Choose from a broad selection of books, such as fairy tales, songs, poetry, fiction and nonfiction.
 - **For beginning readers, point at each word as you read it.** This helps children understand that the word they say is the word they see and that we read from left to right.
 - **Let your beginning reader read to you.**
 - **Talk to your child about the pictures and what is happening in the story.** This helps comprehension skills.
 - **Read your child's favorite book over and over again.** Children love hearing certain stories many times, and the repetition helps them connect the sounds they hear with the written words.
 - **Invite your younger children to join in when you read stories that have rhyming words and lines that repeat.**
 - **Point out new words and explain what they mean.**
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