

## MacArthur's 2009 State Accreditation and AYP Results

**NOTE:** All results are preliminary at this time. Final results may be different, but it is expected that any differences will be insignificant.

### Results in a Nutshell

Preliminary results for school accreditation by the Virginia Department of Education and achievement of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under the guidelines of the federal No Child Left Behind Act were released late last week. The preliminary results for Douglas MacArthur are:

- MacArthur expects to be fully accredited
- All of the AYP benchmarks for English (reading) performance were met
- Some of the AYP benchmarks for Math performance were not met

MacArthur faces no sanctions of any type as a result of missing the Math AYP benchmarks.

### What does it mean to be fully accredited?

School accreditation ratings reflect student achievement on Standards of Learning Assessments and other tests in English, history/social science, mathematics and science. Ratings are based on the achievement of students on tests taken during the previous academic year and may also reflect a three-year average of achievement.

<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/src/accreditation>

#### Definition of Fully Accredited

For 2008, a combined pass rate of at least 75 percent on English tests in grades 3 - 5 is required for full accreditation at the elementary school level. Elementary schools also must achieve a pass rate of at least 70 percent in mathematics and in grade 5 science and grade 5 history, and pass rates of at least 50 percent in grade 3 science and grade 3 history. (2009 pass rate requirements have not yet been published.)

#### 2008 Accreditation Benchmarks (Pass Rates)

SUBJECT	Grade 3	Grades 4-5
English	75%	75%
Mathematics	70%	70%
Science	50%	70%
History	50%	70%

<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/src/accred-descriptions.shtml>

## **What is AYP?**

AYP is the key measure in determining whether a public school or school district is making “adequate progress” towards the academic goals established by each state. Each state is responsible for setting goals that call for “continuous and substantial improvement” of each public school district and public school, with the ultimate outcome that all students must meet the state’s standards for proficiency in language arts and math by the year 2014.

Virginia measures proficiency in language arts and math using its standardized tests, commonly referred to as the “SOLs.” SOL stands for “Standards of Learning,” which is Virginia’s statewide standardized public school curriculum.

## **What is the AYP benchmark?**

Virginia establishes benchmarks for English and Math proficiency for each year, and uses performance in comparison to these benchmarks to determine if schools have made AYP. A school’s students as a whole must meet the benchmark, as must each of the following student subgroups:

- Black
- Hispanic
- White
- Special Education
- Limited English Proficiency
- Free and Reduced Lunch

(NOTE: An individual student may be represented in one or more subgroups.)

If the school as a whole attains the benchmark, but one or more subgroups does not, the school does not make AYP. To be considered in the AYP determination, a subgroup within the school must have at least 50 students.

For 2009, the Virginia English benchmark is 81%; for 2008 it was 77%.  
For 2009, the Virginia Math benchmark is 79%; for 2008 it was 75%.

## **On which subgroups is MacArthur evaluated?**

MacArthur has 50 or more students in the following subgroups, and, therefore, each of these subgroups must meet the AYP benchmark in order for MacArthur to make AYP.

- Black
- White
- Free and Reduced Lunch

Only students in grades 3, 4 and 5 are evaluated. MacArthur had 255 students in grades 3-5 who took the SOLs in the spring of 2009.

**What were MacArthur’s results?**

MacArthur’s overall school performance far exceeded the benchmarks for both English and Math. “Pass/Advanced” scores of 500 or more out of 600 possible points were achieved on 428 tests, with 119 of those scores being perfect 600s. Half of the students tested received a Pass/Advanced on one or more tests.

MacArthur’s results are summarized below:

		ENGLISH			MATH	
SUBGROUP	Benchmark	Results	Met AYP?	Benchmark	Results	Met AYP?
All Students	81%	92%	Y	79%	88%	Y
White	81%	99%	Y	79%	96%	Y
Black	81%	81%	Y	79%	74%	N
Free & Reduced Lunch	81%	83%	Y	79%	73%	N

**How close were we to making AYP?**

Very close. MacArthur would have met the benchmark for Math if, at most, 9 more students had passed (most likely fewer than 9 because some of those students are probably counted in more than one subgroup).

**What does not achieving AYP in Math mean for MacArthur?**

Missing the AYP Math benchmark has no direct implications for MacArthur. No sanctions of any type will be imposed. The school will continue to be fully accredited.

Needless to say, the school staff is very concerned that the benchmarks in Math were not attained. They are carefully reviewing the testing results, and translating these statistics into the faces of children who need additional support. Regardless of subgroup, staff will be developing intervention plans for all students not passing their SOLs.

MacArthur continues to be a high-performing school, exceeding the City-wide and State-wide averages on practically every measure. MacArthur’s commitment to the success of each student remains steadfast.

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If you have questions, please call Mrs. Thompson or Mrs. Holloman. If you want to learn more about AYP or state accreditation, information is available at the following websites:

More information is available on the Virginia Department of Education Web site at <http://www.doe.virginia.gov>. Specific information for each school division and individual schools can be found on the Virginia School Report Card page at <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/src/index.shtml>.

Also see <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/news2010/nr2009081302.php> for information on ACPS as a whole.