

## LEBANON SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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### **Press Release (For Immediate Release)**

#### **"All LSSD Schools in Good Standing on AYP Report"**

Lebanon Special School District is very pleased to report that every school in the district is in Good Standing according to the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) guidelines of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as reported by the Tennessee State Department of Education. Every school was held to a higher benchmark for percentage of students proficient this year. "We are proud of our students, teachers and principals who work very hard every day to make learning happen," said Dr. Sharon Roberts, Director of Schools.

We are particularly excited to have Walter J. Baird Middle School on the Celebration List for Tennessee schools that are recognized for making accelerated progress to move students from nonproficient to proficient and advanced.

As a district, the AYP report combines all school totals to determine district success as well. Even though all schools made AYP, the district will be categorized as target for two groups whose writing scores need to improve. From the district report, the Limited English Proficient (LEP) subgroup and Students With Disabilities (SWD) subgroup were short of the 89% proficiency needed to reach the 2008 benchmark in reading/language.

District leaders and administrators have reviewed the data and determined the need to focus on improvement in writing. LSSD provided additional training during June and July for all teachers in strategies to teach writing. "A focus on writing is part of the school and district improvement plans for the new school year", said Jeanne Ray, Associate Director of Learning.

According to Stan Blades, the Federal Programs coordinator for LSSD, "While the Limited English Proficient (LEP) subgroup of students did not meet the federally mandated benchmark under No Child Left Behind (NCLB), approximately 75% of LEP students made proficiency. Some of these students have only been in an American school for two years; this is a phenomenal feat. It normally takes two years for students to develop social language and another 5-7 years to develop academic language."

For students with disabilities, the district-wide subgroup scored 81.3% proficient just short of the 89% required by NCLB for this year. "Our special education teachers are working collaboratively with general education teachers to improve the reading and writing proficiency of students with disabilities. Additional technology will be used to enhance student skills", according to Lynn Cable, Director of Special Education for LSSD.

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