

Dear Parents and Community Members

Blackburn once again enjoyed many successes during the 2010-2011 school year. We achieved high marks on local and state testing. We had our first county wide spelling bee champion and our Science Olympiad team placed first in the regional competition at LRU. We saw growth in our assessments of students at all levels. The school also finished 3rd out of 16 elementary schools in testing combined (Math, Reading, and Science)

This was the first year that Blackburn did not meet 100% of its goals according to Annual Yearly Progress or AYP as mandated by the Federal Government. AYP is a part of "No Child Left Behind" legislation enacted by former President George Bush in 2001. Every school has different groups that make up its entire population. These groups (Categories) are determined by race, socioeconomic status, and other factors. This legislation calls for all students in all categories to be on grade level by 2014 (100%). Students are determined to be on grade level based on the score they receive on a states yearly testing. In North Carolina students must receive a level 3 or 4 on the EOGs to be on grade level. For the 2010-2011 school year all groups had to have at least 71.6% of all students in all categories score a level 3 or 4 on the reading EOG and at least 88.6% of all students in all categories score a level 3 or 4 on the math EOG.

*As compared to 77.2 % of students on level in math and 43.2% in reading in each subgroup during the 2009-2010 school year.

Blackburn is not a Title I school so we do not receive funding from the federal government in regards to "No Child Left Behind" Legislation. You will hear how schools go into sanctions or have school choice due to the fact they did not make AYP. None of these apply to Blackburn. Our goal from the first day Blackburn became an elementary schools is to ensure all students are on grade level and have the best opportunities to learn. That will continue to be our goal next year and beyond the year 2014.

Last school year Blackburn made 21 out of 21 in AYP for 2009-2010. As a school Blackburn made AYP in 20 out of 29 categories for 2010-2011 but according to this legislation it is all or nothing. As you can see Blackburn gained 8 new subgroups from the previous school year which notes a major shift in school population. So for this year Blackburn did not make AYP. If you have questions or concerns please feel free to stop by the school or give me a call

Sincerely

Brian Hefner

Principal