

Date: January 2005

MEMORANDUM

TO: Illinois State Board of Education

FROM: Robin M. Lisboa,
Division Administrator for English Language Learning

SUBJECT: NCLB Title III Public Law 107-110 Accountability
Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives

According to the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), only school districts that receive Title III funding (LIPLEPS and/or IEP) are accountable for meeting Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAO) for Limited English Proficient (LEP) students. In August 2004 a letter was sent to all school district superintendents outlining the process for determining whether or not a district met AMAOs for school year 2003-04; however, that letter stated that only one criterion would be used for determining whether a district met the AMAOs. After lengthy discussions with the U.S. Department of Education, it became clear that all States, including Illinois, must adhere to the *three* criteria listed below.

The AMAO targets are based on the performance of cohorts of LEP students on locally-administered, state-approved English language proficiency assessments, and on state-administered achievement assessments (IMAGE or ISAT). AMAOs include three target criteria:

1. **Progress toward English Language Proficiency:** 85% of the students in a cohort must make progress on one of the four state-approved, English language proficiency assessments. Progress is defined as a gain of at least one raw score point in any of the domains of listening, speaking, reading or writing.
2. **English Language Proficiency:** The percentage of students who score within the "proficient" category on the English proficiency assessment administered in the district must meet or exceed the state target. "Proficient" is a composite score, computed by taking a weighted percentage of proficient students in each domain (listening, speaking, reading and writing) and comprehension.
3. **Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP):** The district must also make Adequate Yearly Progress for LEP students served by programs funded under Title III. Calculations are based upon the same formula used for Title I Adequate Yearly Progress.

To meet AMAOs for the Title III-funded population, a district must achieve **ALL** targets defined by the state in all three areas.

*If a school district does not meet AMAOs, they must inform all parents of children participating in Title III funded programs (LIPLEPS and/or IEP) within **30 days** of receipt of this “does not meet AMAOs” notification. (Title III Public Law 107-110 SEC. 3302). A template of a district parental notification letter has been translated into high incidence languages, and is available www.isbe.net/bilingual.*

2004 is the first year that AMAO calculations were made in Illinois, based on the 2004 assessments. In subsequent years the State must provide notification to districts on their AMAO status and take additional corrective action to ensure that AMAOs are met. NCLB has indicated sanctions and possible courses of action at years two and four of the district not meeting AMAOs.

If a district fails to meet AMAOs for two (2) consecutive years,

1. the State must provide technical assistance to that district; **and**
2. the State must require that the district develop a district improvement plan to ensure that AMAOs are met in the future.

If a district fails to meet AMAOs for four (4) consecutive years,

1. the State must require the district to modify its curriculum, program, or methods of instruction; **or**
2. the State must make a determination on whether the district shall continue to receive Title III funds, and require the district to replace educational personnel associated with the district's failure to meet such objectives (*Title III Public Law 107-110 SEC. 3122(b)(1-4)*).

A letter containing this information and an AMAO determination data sheet will be sent to school districts receiving Title III funds in January 2004. For questions regarding school district designations, please call Dr. Lilibeth Gumia in the Data Analysis Division at 217-782-3950. Programmatic questions can be addressed by the Division of English Language Learning at 312-814-3850.