

NEWS RELEASE



Mascoutah Community Unit School District 19 *Community of Excellent Schools*

Release No.09-10-03

October 13, 2009

Page 1 of 3

Students Continue to Excel in Performance

MASCOUTAH, IL. – Scores for Illinois standards Achievement Testing (ISAT) have been released and, once again, District 19 students continue to perform above the established standards.

Adequate yearly progress (AYP) is the specification of the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) used by the state to dictate the percentage of students expected to achieve a defined standard of learning. The percentage is set at 70 percent for 2009. Last year, it was 62.5 percent.

Students in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 complete the ISAT. Students in 11th grade take the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE). Students in kindergarten through 11th grade complete Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing also under the guise of the NorthWest Evaluation Association (NWEA).

Grades 3, 5, 6 and 8 tested in reading and math while grades 4 and 7 tested in reading, math and science. Both tests, the ISAT and PSAE, assess student knowledge and application of that knowledge in problem solving tasks. The greatest emphasis of the testing is on application of the student's knowledge.

Students achieve at one of performance levels in the ISAT. These are:

- **Exceeds Standards** – Student work demonstrates advanced knowledge and skills in the subject. Students creatively apply knowledge and skills to solve problems and evaluate results.
- **Meets Standards** – Student work demonstrates proficient knowledge and skills in the subject. Students effectively apply knowledge and skills to solve problems.

- **Below Standards** – Student work demonstrates basic knowledge and skills in the subject. However, because of gaps in learning, students apply knowledge and skills in limited ways.
- **Academic Warning** – Student work demonstrates limited knowledge and skills in the subject. Because of major gaps in learning, students apply knowledge and skills ineffectively.

MAP testing identifies grade level strengths and areas of concern as well as individual strengths and concerns for each student.

In ISAT reading, 86 percent of district 3rd grade students exceeded or met standards for 2009. Statewide, 72 percent of students accomplished this feat. In math testing, 94 percent of district 3rd graders exceeded or met standards. Statewide, some 85 percent of students were at this level.

Fourth-graders tested in reading, math and science. District students tested at the 90 percent level in reading, at 97 percent in math and 93 percent in science this year. Their peers at state level achieved at 74 percent, 86 percent and 77 percent, respectively.

Reading tests for district 5th graders resulted in 86 percent of students meeting or exceeding standards, compared to 74 percent at the state level. Fifth-grade math testing shows 93 percent of district students at the meets or exceeds level while 82 percent of students at the state level achieved this mark.

Sixth-grade students in the district scored 94 percent meeting or exceeding standards in reading tests. In math, 95 percent of 6th graders met or exceeded standards. About 79 percent of 6th graders met or exceeded in writing.

Scoring for 7th grade students continued a pattern of improvement again this year. In reading, 91 percent of 7th graders met or exceeded standards. Their counterparts on the state level averaged 78 percent. In math, this group scored 97 percent. Science testing resulted in a 96 percent score while the state average for 7th graders was at 80 percent.

District 19 8th graders carded a 95 percent score for students meeting or exceeding standards in reading testing. They registered 94 percent in mathematics testing. In writing, 89 percent of 8th graders met or exceeded the standard.

For PSAE, 205 11th graders at the high school tested. In reading, 73 percent met or exceeded the standard, up five percent over 2008. Statewide, only 57 percent of students had this level of achievement. In mathematics, 63 percent of 11th graders met or exceeded the standard. In science, 68 percent of students met or exceeded, compared to 51 percent at the state level.

In ACT testing, high school students in the district scored a composite 21.8. ACT testing measures a student's readiness for college-level work. The state composite score for all students was 20.8.

Each school in the district has an improvement plan in effect that outlines the steps underway to ensure continuous improvement in student test scores. The District 19 Board of Education was briefed on the outline of the school improvement process as well as district test scores at the monthly meeting Oct. 13.

Page 3 of 3

District 19 easily meets the criteria for making adequate yearly progress in all categories. The AYP standard rises each year until 2014 when 100 percent of tested student must meet the defined standards.

“The district continues in its performance as a leader in the area and well above the state in student achievement,” said assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction Linda Shephard. “The efforts of our teachers and administrators continue to help drive student achievement. As the needs of students change, we will adjust our strategies and strive to meet those needs.”

“These test scores demonstrate excellence in the education programs of the district,” said District 19 superintendent Sam McGowen. “The scores reflect very well on our students, our parents, our teachers, our support staff and our community.”

State testing report cards for schools in District 19 are posted on the district website at www.mascoutah19.k12.il.us.

Mascoutah Community Unit School District 19, a “*Community of Excellent Schools*,” is a high-achieving district that serves as a beacon of excellence for other school districts in the region. The district encompasses 104 square miles in southwestern Illinois, including the city of Mascoutah, all of Scott Air Force Base, MidAmerica Airport and parts of the cities of Belleville and the villages of Shiloh and New Baden. The district’s mixture of rural, suburban and military communities provides a rich and diverse educational experience for its approximately 3,300 students.

xxx

Contact:

Dr. Sam H. McGowen – 618-566-7414 – E-mail: mcgowens@mascoutah19.k12.il.us