

# Mineral County schools rank high on student assessment tests

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System No. 2 in state in adequate yearly progress

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KEYSER, W.Va. — In a vast improvement from previous years, 11 of 12 Mineral County schools have made adequate yearly progress under the federal No Child Left Behind Act for the 2010 to 2011 school year, making Mineral the second highest AYP scorer in the state.

The figures were released Tuesday and announced at the Mineral County Board of Education meeting last night.

"I had anticipated having a higher number of schools to make AYP," said Tom Denne, director of Psychological Services, Student Assessment and Student Services, adding that he had no expectation for Mineral County to rank that high.

AYP is measured by the West Virginia Educational Standards Test (WEST-

EST2).

Denne said that it is a "remarkable" feat for Mineral County to reach this rank as the standards for the state rose 16 percent since the previous school year.

"It was much more difficult this year to make AYP than in the past," said Denne.

Every school but Keyser Primary Middle School was able to reach the goal. Last year, 82 percent of Mineral County schools achieved the mark and this year, 91 percent made it.

"We made great progress," said Denne. "It's wonderful."

Roane County, with only six schools, ranked No. 1 in West Virginia.

"(To reach this) is a tremendous uphill battle," said Steve Peer, assistant superintendent and treasurer, who also pointed out that Mineral County had twice as

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many schools to bring up to par as Roane County.

Denne said Mineral County schools were "an anomaly" last year when they began sending a progress report to each students' parents. This year, all counties in West Virginia will be required to send home the progress reports that let parents know how their student performs from year to year.

The positive information was very well received by the board.

"Way to go Mineral County," said board president Kevin Watson. "We can be number one very easily."

Assistant Superintend-

ent David Albani reported enrollment information that was gathered at the start of the school year Thursday.

"There is a slight drop in enrollment," said Albani.

Contrasting statistics from the start of the 2010 to 2011 school year, Mineral County schools lost 1 percent of its students, going from a total of 4,407 to 4,342.

The largest decreases took place at Fort Ashby Primary School and Keyser High School, which each lost 24 students. However, not all schools were in the negative. Frankfort High School increased by 11 students and Frankfort Intermediate and Keyser Primary Middle both added

seven students.

"The numbers look OK, but we're still going in the wrong direction," said Albani.

Despite the slightly decreased enrollment, board member Terry LaRue said all of the employees whose positions were eliminated due to a reduction in force policy have been brought back.

"Everyone we put on the RIF list is now back," said LaRue.

Last spring, the topic of the teachers whose positions were eliminated, specifically in the special education departments, caused several heated discussions at the board meetings.

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# Mineral County scores second in W.Va. on WESTEST

KEYSER - Mineral County Schools were able to greatly improve WESTEST scores during the school year 2010-2011, placing the county school system second highest in the state in the number of schools meeting adequate yearly progress (AYP).

Roane County had the highest number of schools meeting AYP. Statewide, the percentage of schools achieving AYP dipped significantly from 81 percent to 48 percent.

A total of 91 percent of Mineral County Schools made West Virginia's Adequate Yearly Progress compared to 75 percent in the previous year.

AYP is an annual yearly progress report with standards from the federal No

Child Left Behind Act. Students are required to test in reading and math in order to measure the progress of schools. This year, 16 percent more students had to test proficient for schools to meet AYP standards.

"I am the eternal optimist and I never expected to be speaking in this celebratory way to you tonight," said Dr. Tom Denne at Tuesday's Mineral County Board of Education meeting.

Last year, nine of the 12 schools in Mineral County made AYP and this year every school but Keyser Primary Middle achieved the goal. All schools that previously made AYP were able to retain their position this year.

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"The progress we had to make was enormous. I anticipated more schools not making AYP this year," said Denne.

"There is still work to be done in all schools," he said. "Each year it will be harder and harder to make AYP."

According to Denne, KPMS did make tremen-

dous progress in the areas of reading and language arts, but failed to show proficient improvement in mathematics.