



Kathy Cox, State Superintendent of Schools

August 4, 2008

TO: Parents of English Language Learners (ELLs)  
CC: Local School Superintendents and ESOL Coordinators  
FROM: Kathy Cox, State Superintendent of Schools *KCup*  
SUBJECT: Progress of English Language Learners

As the 2008-2009 school year begins, I want to update you on how we are measuring the progress of students who, like yours, are learning English in our public schools.

No Child Left Behind, the federal education law, requires every state to set three goals for school districts when it comes to educating English Language Learners. These goals are called Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives or AMAOs and measure progress three different ways:

- 1) The first goal (AMAO 1) measures the percentage of students who are making progress toward proficiency in English
- 2) The second goal (AMAO 2) measures the percentage of students who have become proficient in English
- 3) The third goal (AMAO 3) denotes whether the school district's English Language Learning students met federal goals – or made “Adequate Yearly Progress” – in mathematics and reading

### GOALS 1 & 2 (AMAO 1 and AMAO 2)

Reporting for goals 1 and 2 requires a test that measures how well students like yours are reading, writing, speaking and understanding English. Georgia worked with several other states to adopt a test for this purpose. It is called ACCESS. This test was first administered in 2006. After it was given for a second time in 2007, the state had enough information to measure progress for goals 1 and 2 and was able to comply with the federal requirement to set and report on goals 1 and 2.

You can see this information on our website. From a computer with an internet connection and follow the instructions in the enclosed handout entitled “Reporting on Georgia’s Title III Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives.”

It is important to note that the results of the ACCESS test are not only used for the purpose listed above, but are also used to help guide instruction for your child and make sure he or she is learning English as quickly as possible.

### **GOAL 3 (AMAO 3)**

The state of Georgia has been reporting on goal 3 since 2003. Our annual “Adequate Yearly Progress” report clearly lists whether schools with a significant number of English Language Learners are meeting goals. Again, you can find this information on our website by following the instruction in the enclosed handout: “Reporting on Georgia’s Title III Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives.”

As you review this information, you may have questions about your school’s performance. Please contact your local school district and ask for the “ESOL Coordinator.” A complete list of these coordinators is posted on the Georgia Department of Education’s website ([http://www.gadoe.org/ci\\_iap\\_esol.aspx](http://www.gadoe.org/ci_iap_esol.aspx)). Should you need further assistance, please call (404) 463-0505.

I hope that this is a wonderful school year for your family. Thank you for all you are doing to help your child succeed in school and help Georgia lead the nation in improving student achievement.

#### **Attachment I**

#### **Reporting on Georgia’s Title III Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives**

**1. Where can I find information on how my school district performed on the Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives for Title III?**

For Goal 3 (AMAO 3), reports for each school district in Georgia for the past six years are posted online as part of district’s AYP reports. Information about the AYP group status for the ELL (LEP) sub-group is posted on each tab: Summary, Test Participation, Academic Performance, and Second Indicator. Notice the drop-down menus next to “AYP Indicator” on the Test Participation, Academic Performance, and Second Indicator pages.

<http://www.gadoe.org/ayp2007.aspx>

For goals 1 & 2 (AMAO 1, Progress toward Proficiency in English, and AMAO 2, Attainment of Proficiency in English) district-by-district data are reported under “ELL Parents” on the ESOL web site. A list of ESOL Coordinators for local school systems and how to contact them is also posted on this website:

[http://www.gadoe.org/ci\\_iap\\_esol.aspx](http://www.gadoe.org/ci_iap_esol.aspx)

**2. Where are the reports for the 2007-2008 school year?**

Those reports will be available by November 30, 2008.