

USD #377 Atchison County Community Schools News Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USD#377 Students reaching excellence ahead of schedule

Again this year, USD #377 students surpassed the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets for proficiency in reading and math. Our students have exceeded the AYP standards every year since the *No Child Left Behind Act* became national law in 2002.

The Kansas State Department of Education annually recognizes schools for outstanding academic achievement with the prestigious Standard-Of-Excellence Awards. When the 2006-07 awards were announced recently, USD#377 was recognized with 12 awards- the most ever by students in our district.

Reading and Math are tested annually in grades three through eight and in one grade in high school. School accreditation, as well as nationally mandated Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), is determined by student proficiency in reading and math. Kansas *Standard-of-Excellence Awards* recognize schools that exceed AYP targets and achieve excellence in student achievement.

During the past three years, USD #377 students have steadily increased the number of *Standard-of-Excellence Awards* won. District students earned four awards in reading and math in 2005 (seven awards total, including two awards in science and one in writing.). In 2006, district students earned seven reading and math awards. This year's total of 12 *Standard-of-Excellence Awards* is the most earned by district students since the inception of the awards.

Since 2002-03 when KSDE incorporated NCLB guidelines into reporting school achievement data, USD#377 has shown a steady increase district wide in reading and writing proficiency.

Year	Reading-% of Students Proficient		Math-% of Students Proficient	
	USD #377	(AYP Goal)	USD #377	(AYP Goal)
2003-04	56.5%	(51%)	60.8%	(38%)
2004-05	71.6%	(58%)	55.2%	(46.8%)
2005-06	80.1%	(58%)	70.6%	(46.8%)
2006-07	86.0%	(65%)	83.9%	(55.7%)

District students continue to make gains well in excess of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets. The district goal is for all students to demonstrate proficiency by 2010-ahead of the 2014 national target for across-the-board proficiency.