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### **CLARIFICATION**

The New Jersey Department of Education issued the following clarification regarding the statewide Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) results:

There are 2,398 public elementary, middle and high schools in New Jersey.

However, of those 2,398 schools, 333 are either:

- K-2 or K-3 schools (at which no test was administered for AYP purposes in 2004); or
- Schools that have fewer than 40 pupils in either the 4<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade (in which case they would fall below the minimum number of students required to have their standardized test results calculated for the purposes of AYP.)

In the remaining 2065 schools, tests were administered in either the 4<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade, and the numbers of participants at the grade level were sufficient to meet the AYP reporting requirements.

Of the entire universe of 2,398 schools, 621 (25%) did not make AYP in 2004.

These schools are divided into two groups:

- 169 schools that did not make AYP this year only and have received an “Early Warning” notification that if they do not make AYP again in 2005, they would be subject to sanctions.

“Early Warning” is a New Jersey designation, not a federal NCLB status category. The federal NCLB rules do not require the states to report schools which receive early warnings in calculating the number of schools designated as “In Need of Improvement”, and many states do not. New Jersey does report these schools. However, these schools are not considered “In Need of Improvement” under the federal NCLB guidelines.

An additional 275 schools that made AYP in 2004 after not making AYP in 2003 also received New Jersey “Early Warning” notices, since schools must make AYP two years in a row in order to be removed from the list. These schools are not considered “In Need of Improvement” either.

- 456 schools (22% of the 2,065 schools in which a test was administered and in which the number of participants was sufficient to qualify for AYP calculation under the NCLB rules) did not achieve AYP for the second, third or fourth year in a row and are considered to be “Schools In Need of Improvement” under the federal NCLB guidelines.

Therefore, 78% of the 2,065 New Jersey schools in which a test was administered and in which the number of participants was sufficient to qualify for AYP calculation under the NCLB rules are not considered “In Need of Improvement,” and 81% of the universe of New Jersey’s 2,398 total schools are not considered “In Need of Improvement.”