

TrekNorth Junior & Senior High School



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Dear TrekNorth Family,

Each year, the Minnesota Department of Education assesses public schools based on their performance on the Minnesota Comprehension Assessment exams, which are administered in April to all students in grades 3-8 and 10-11. Proficiency rates on these exams are used to determine whether schools are making Adequate Yearly Progress. In addition to proficiency rates, the state also considers exam participation, school attendance, and graduation rates in their calculations.

In 2011, TrekNorth, along with 1055 other schools in Minnesota, was determined to be a school not making Adequate Yearly Progress. In the many areas measured for Adequate Yearly Progress, TrekNorth fell one point short for their math proficiency rates amongst one subgroup of students. We were very close to making our targets, but because this was the second year in a row the school failed to make Adequate Yearly Progress we will be creating a School Improvement Plan. The plan includes diversifying our math instruction to smaller class sizes of math students and doing more training for teachers to be able to analyze data from standardized tests.

There are many, many opinions about standardized tests and using them to measure a student or the quality of a school that the student attends. We've included a letter from the Minnesota Education Commissioner with more information about AYP and how this legislation may change in the next few months. As the Director of TrekNorth, I want to remind parents that we do take the state tests seriously, but we also feel that the quality of the education provided to students at TrekNorth is top notch by many measurements. For example, in 2011, 55% of TrekNorth graduates had taken and passed at least one Advanced Placement Exam during their high school career, while the national and state average was approximately 15%.

If you have questions about the information in this letter, about how AYP is determined, or about the curriculum and instruction at TrekNorth, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dan McKeon
Executive Director
TrekNorth Jr. & Sr. High School