

Birmingham City Public Schools

Academic Progress in Birmingham

Birmingham City Schools needed a tool to assess progress, system wide, so that both Central Office staff and individual school staff could make informative decisions on instructional successes and failures before end of the year state testing occurred. Central Office would use the results to better focus resources to targeted subject areas and schools throughout the system. Schools would use the results to focus and refocus instruction as needed. A committee of principals from all grade levels was formed and given the task of reviewing formative, predictive assessment tools available at the time, and making a recommendation which best suited our needs. Every school in the system would use the tool.

Presently, every school has had training on the implementation of the assessment. Every school has been trained on how to use the results to inform instruction. The assessment is funded using Title I and local funds.

The results are math and reading scores in our elementary and middle schools have shown steady yearly gains since 2003. Last year, our nine high schools were included in the assessment, and all but one made AYP. In all, 57 of our 65 schools made AYP.

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