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For Immediate Release: October 19, 2011

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District schools exhibit gains in AYP based on latest MCA results

Making great strides, all schools in Inver Grove Heights (Independent School District 199) experienced gains in Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) based on the last state-mandated MCA tests. As a whole the district met AYP in reading for all six subgroups (all students, Hispanic, black, limited English proficiency, special education and free/reduced lunch).

In 2010, the district had 53/72, or 74-percent, of its tested subgroup areas meeting proficiency in reading and math. **In 2011, district students made tremendous progress and met proficiency in 62/72 math and reading subgroup areas, or 86-percent of subgroup areas.**

Both Inver Grove Heights Middle School (IGHMS) and Salem Hills Elementary School had four subgroups not meeting AYP in reading in 2010. **In 2011, IGHMS, Salem Hills, Pine Bend Elementary School and Atheneum met AYP in all six reading subgroups.**

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Two subgroups at Hilltop Elementary School did not meet AYP in math in 2010, and three subgroups at Salem Hills did not meet AYP. **In 2011, every subgroup at Hilltop met AYP in math and all but one met AYP at Salem Hills.** The subgroup not meeting AYP at Salem Hills showed gains from the previous year and missed gaining *safe harbor and meeting AYP by less than two index points.

"That's a dramatic improvement," said Bert Strassburg, the district's director of curriculum and instruction. "We're celebrating the work that (our students and staff) have done."

The new high school math exam, built on much tougher standards than years past, presented challenges for students across the state. State education officials explained that this year's results will serve as a benchmark, similarly to the math test that was introduced in 2006, which also produced a decline in math scores across the state the year after it was implemented.

Simley High School's Alternative Learning Program (ALP) met AYP in both reading and math for the first time since the implementation of the MCA tests. The ALP was in the first year of its restructured classroom setting, in which challenge-based learning was the primary teaching/learning approach. The transformation earned the school the Star of Innovation Award from the Association of Secondary School Principals.

"As the scores show our dedicated staff are on the right track doing great things for all students in ISD 199," said Superintendent Dr. Deirdre Wells. "We will continue to move forward providing the best education possible to all students enrolled in our district."

For more information on test scores, please review the district's [annual report](#).

**Safe harbor allows a school or district to demonstrate growth and attain proficient status by showing a 10-percent reduction in the percent of students scoring below proficiency from the previous year.*

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