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July 31, 2012

Jennifer Cava
Acting Director
Academy for Science and Design (H)
316 Daniel Webster Highway
Merrimack, NH 03054-4115

Dear Ms. Cava:

The purpose of this letter is to advise you that the preliminary AYP determination issued in April for your school has been changed to "*Made AYP in Reading and Mathematics*", based upon the results of a recently-completed "Small School" review process.

The preliminary determination of "*Status Pending – Small School Review*" occurs when a school does not meet the minimum group size of eleven for student performance calculations within the current testing and AYP year. The Department's Small School Review process for such schools is as follows:

Case 1: The process aggregates data over two or three years, if necessary, in order to meet the minimum group size for reporting. Once the minimum group size is met, a decision can be rendered.

Case 2: The process involves a review of data generated by the school that next receives your students. In this case, a school "inherits" the AYP designation of the school that next receives the majority of your students.

Qualitative Review: If the processes described for Case 1 or Case 2 are not feasible, the next step is a Qualitative Review.

Your school falls within Case 1. A review of student performance data for 2012 and 2011 combined yielded a group size of 13 students, surpassing the minimum group size for reporting. The average index score for the group well exceeds the 2012 index targets for Reading and Mathematics. A more detailed template is included with this letter.

Thank you for your patience as we completed this process. Please contact Merry Fortier, Education Consultant, with any questions at Merry.Fortier@doe.nh.gov or by phone at (603) 271-7382.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Virginia M. Barry".

Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

VMB:MF:emr

2012 Adequate Yearly Progress Small School Report (SSR)

School Name and Number: Academy for Science & Design (H)
 District/SAU: 28615
 Grades Tested: HS

Small Schools are schools with no group large enough to be evaluated within the normal accountability system. Since the approved cell size for performance is smaller than for participation or the other indicator, small schools are evaluated on performance by aggregating performance across 2 or 3 years in order to reach the minimum size of 11.

SSR RESULTS	
Did the school make AYP in Reading?	YES
Did the school make AYP in Math?	YES
Did the school meet the attendance rate (Elem/MS) or graduation rate (HS) requirement? See original AYP report.	***too small to calculate

New Hampshire's process for schools with too few students to meet the minimum cell size:

If the number of continuously enrolled students is less than 11, aggregate a second year of data and make an AYP determination. If the number is still less than 11, aggregate a third year of data and make the AYP determination. If the number is still less than 11, conduct a qualitative review to make the final AYP determination.

Can the process be applied? Yes, enough students over 2 years Yes, enough students over 3 years No, qualitative review

NECAP (Fall of 2011)	Reading		Math		NECAP (Fall of 2010)	Reading		Math		NECAP (Fall of 2009)	Reading		Math	
Level 0 (0 index points)					Level 0 (0 index points)					Level 0 (0 index points)				
Level 1a (20 points)					Level 1a (20 points)					Level 1a (20 points)				
Level 1b (40 points)					Level 1b (40 points)					Level 1b (40 points)				
Level 2a (60 points)					Level 2a (60 points)					Level 2a (60 points)				
Level 2b (80 points)			2	160	Level 2b (80 points)					Level 2b (80 points)				
Level 3 (100 points)	4	400	4	400	Level 3 (100 points)	6	600	7	700	Level 3 (100 points)				
Level 4 (100 points)	2	200			Level 4 (100 points)	1	100			Level 4 (100 points)				
Number of continuously enrolled (CE) students and index points earned (based upon NECAP assessment scores)					Number of continuously enrolled (CE) students and index points earned (based upon NECAP assessment scores)					Number of continuously enrolled (CE) students and index points earned (based upon NECAP assessment scores)				

New Hampshire's approved accountability rule for making an AYP determination:

If the cell size is equal to or greater than 11 continuously enrolled students, calculate the index score for the group in Reading and in Math separately. The index score is the average of the index points in the group. Compare the group's index score in each content area to the state index targets to determine if the group has met: Condition 1) met or exceeded the index target; or Condition 2) scored within an acceptable range (Confidence Interval) of the index target for a group of its size; or Condition 3) has met the 10% rule.

New Hampshire's process for small schools once the minimum cell size is met:

Apply Condition 1 above, and Condition 2 if needed, to make the AYP determination. If the group's index score, when compared to the state index target, does not meet either Condition 1 or Condition 2, conduct a qualitative review to make the AYP determination.

2012 Index Target for High Schools	READING 89	MATHEMATICS 72
Group Size (number of continuously enrolled students)	13	13
Group Index Score (average of the index points in the group)	1300/13 = 100	1260/13 = 96.9
Did the School Meet or Exceed the State Index Targets and Make AYP?	YES	YES
If "No" in the above step, did the school make AYP within the Confidence Interval range?		
Was the AYP determination made through a Qualitative Review? (describe artifacts reviewed to make AYP determination) Based decision on...		