

## V. State of Education on the Westside

***“One of the main reasons for this lack of success is that APS has simply gotten too large and cannot respond well to the needs of its communities.”***

Westside schools within APS are suffering. Subpar Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), ACT scores, SAT scores, drop out rates, and graduation rates are all indicators that student achievement lags behind other schools within the district at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Moreover, the Westside is home to the poorest performing school in APS, West Mesa High School. A separate district would allow more attention to be given to Westside students to ensure they are receiving the best education possible.

When compared to APS, a majority of Westside schools are not meeting AYP. Thirty-seven percent of APS schools met AYP for the 2007-2008 school year, while 16% of the Westside schools met AYP.



*Ventana Ranch Elementary campus held 1,800 students until April of this year. Tierra Antigua and Sunset View were built to relieve the overcrowding. The westside is at the mercy of the elected board, which ignored westside overcrowding for 20 years.*

Table 9  
 Albuquerque Public  
 Schools, NM  
 Public Education  
 Department

	<b>AYP Rating</b>	<b>Improvement status</b>
Chamiza Elementary School	Meets AYP	Progressing
Chaparral Elementary School	AYP Not Met	Progressing
Corrales Elementary School	AYP Not Met	Progressing
Lavaland Elementary School	AYP Not Met	Restructuring 2
Marie M. Hughes Elementary School	Meets AYP	SI-1 delay
Painted Sky Elementary School	Meets AYP	Progressing
Petroglyph Elementary School	AYP Not Met	SI-1 delay
S. R. Marmon Elementary School	AYP Not Met	SI-2 delay
Seven Bar Elementary School	AYP Not Met	Progressing
Sierra Vista Elementary School	AYP Not Met	SI-2 delay
Sunset View Elementary School	AYP Not Met	SI-2 delay
Tierra Antigua Elementary School	N/A	N/A
Ventana Ranch Elementary School	AYP Not Met	SI-1 delay
James Monroe Middle School	AYP Not Met	SI-2 delay
Jimmy Carter Middle School	AYP Not Met	Restructuring
John Adams Middle School	AYP Not Met	Restructuring
L. B. Johnson Middle School	AYP Not Met	SI-1 delay
Tony Hillerman Middle School	N/A	N/A
Cibola High School	AYP Not Met	SI-1 delay
Volcano Vista	N/A	N/A
West Mesa High School	AYP Not Met	CA
School On Wheels (alternative HS)	AYP Not Met	CA
Corrales International (Charter)	N/A	N/A
Creative Education Prep #2 (Charter)	N/A	N/A
Horizon Academy West (Charter)	N/A	N/A
La Academia de Esperanza (Charter)	N/A	N/A
La Promesa Early Learning (Charter)	N/A	N/A
<b>Westside Composite</b>	<b>16%</b>	
<b>APS Composite</b>	<b>37%</b>	

Westside students are suffering most at the high school level. ACT and SAT scores are key indicators for student preparedness for higher education. Westside schools have lower scores for both standardized tests than the rest of the APS district. Dropout rates and graduation rates at Westside high schools are failing as well. Westside schools have higher dropout rates, indicating the schools are not sufficiently retaining students for completion of a high school education. Westside schools also have lower graduation rates, showing Westside students are either taking longer to finish high school than other schools in the district or they are simply not receiving a high school diploma.

Table 10

SchoolMatters.com,  
Albuquerque Public  
Schools, NM Public  
Education Department

	2007-2008 ACT Scores	2007-2008 SAT Scores	2007-2008 Drop-out Rate	2007-2008 Cohort Graduation Rate
Cibola High School	21.8	548/532/525	4.5%	65.6%
Volcano Vista	N/A	N/A	3.2%	N/A
West Mesa High School	18.2	451/449/440	8.5%	31%
School On Wheels	N/A	N/A	19.6%	61.22%
<b>Westside Composite</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>500/491/483</b>	<b>5.4%*</b>	<b>48.3%*</b>
<b>APS Composite</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>563/564/545</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>85.57%</b>
* Does not include School on Wheels				

West Mesa is considered the poorest performing school in the APS district. West Mesa students have some of the lowest scores for reading and math proficiency, 30.7% and 16.4% respectively. The high school has yet to meet AYP standards within the last four years. The student teacher ratio, 17.5, is higher than the APS average, indicating students are not receiving adequate individual attention. According to the NM Public Education Department, eleventh grade students are below state average for reading, social studies, science, and math. In addition, West Mesa students had the lowest ACT and SAT scores among other APS high schools for the 2007-2008 school year. More attention needs to be given to these students in order to improve fundamental educational competencies. A smaller district will allow this imperative change to occur.

Table 11  
Public Schools, NM  
Public Education  
Department

	West Mesa High School	APS or State Average
Math Proficiency	30.7%	51.8% (APS)
Reading Proficiency	16.4%	36.1% (APS)
Student Teacher Ratio	17.5	15.2 (APS)
Grade 11 Reading Proficiency	41%	50% (state)
Grade 11 Social Studies Proficiency	20%	37% (state)
Grade 11 Science Proficiency	21%	34% (state)
Grade 11 Math Proficiency	18%	34% (state)
ACT score	18.2	21.3 (APS)
SAT score	451/449/440	563/564/545 (APS)

***“The new WSD does not foresee layoffs of faculty or staff in the transition period to a new school district.”***