

## Annual Yearly Progress

By Lee McAllister

This month I would like to share our school's state testing information with you. Due to the No Child Left Behind Act, the state of Alabama is required to test students annually in grades three through eight. The Alabama State Department of Education has developed the ARMT (Alabama Reading and Math Test) to test students on the state standards, which are based closely to the national standards of No Child Left Behind. In recent years, J. E. Williams Elementary has had a reading emphasis due to our becoming part of the Alabama Reading Initiative hi grades Kindergarten through Fifth. The last two years we have also added a math emphasis in order to see improvement in that area. We have been doing whole group, small group, and individualized instruction in mathematics. We have also done some target teaching to make sure that we cover the state course of study in mathematics. Two years ago our math scores started edging up, but did not reach the level where we needed them to be. Last year on both the reading and math tests our students exceeded state goals, and this was due to the hard work and dedication of our teachers. The charts below show you how we did by grade level hi both subject areas.

### Reading State ARMT Results for J. E. Williams Elementary 2008 - 2009

	Grade Three	Grade Four	Grade Five
Percentile Score	93%	94%	85%
2008-09 State Goal	81%	77%	81%
2009-10 State Goal	85%	82%	85%

### Mathematics State ARMT Results for J.E. Williams Elementary 2008 - 2009

	Grade Three	Grade Four	Grade Five
Percentile Score	76%	82%	81%
2008-09 State Goal	74%	72%	71%
2009-10 State Goal	79%	78%	77%

For the past 2 years, J. E. Williams Elementary has met all of the state goals required by the Alabama State Department of Education to make AYP (Adequately Yearly Progress) for the No Child Left Behind requirements. This year our focus in mathematics is on students learning their basic math facts. This is an area that continues to affect our scores. Prior to the beginning of school, our teachers had two intensive days of training on how to teach math facts and procedures with a nationally known presenter, Dr. Edward Thomas. We are excited about our test results, our improvement, and our continued progress. Again, I would like to give a wholehearted thanks to our teachers and staff for their hard work every day for the benefit of our children.