

NCLB Making a Difference in Illinois



- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases federal education funding for Illinois to more than \$5.2 billion – 65% more than when the President took office.
- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases Title I funding to \$582.5 million – \$215.7 million over 2001 levels – to help Illinois' neediest children.
- Illinois has received \$106.5 million in reading grants to help schools and districts improve children's reading achievement through scientifically proven methods of instruction since 2002. President Bush's proposed budget includes an additional \$41 million for Illinois. In total, over six years, Illinois is set to receive approximately \$215 million in Reading First funds.
- "Contrary to some predictions, moving low-scoring kids to better-performing schools didn't seem to slow the progress of students in those higher-achieving schools. Even kids 'left behind' in struggling schools generally posted better gains in state tests once their peers transferred elsewhere. 'It's a win-win. I couldn't have asked for better results,' said Arne Duncan, Chicago Schools CEO." (*Chicago Sun-Times*, 4/23/04)
- "One hundred schools in Illinois improved test scores by 7.5 percent between 2002 and 2003 and by 15 percent between 2001 and 2003. Every school also maintained the required progress toward the federal goal of every student scoring at or above grade level by 2013." (*Quad City Times*, 6/4/04)
- "Educators celebrated numbers that suggest their hard-fought efforts to improve performance among their most vulnerable students are finally starting to pay off – especially among Latino grade-school students, most of whom are now passing reading and math tests. State schools Superintendent Robert Schiller said the results are a direct result of the federal reform, which forced schools to be accountable for the achievement of specific groups of students – black, Latino, special-education, low-income and those with limited English skills. These changes may have paid off for the state's youngest Latino children, who improved over four years in every grade and in every subject on the ISATs. For Latino 5th graders, the percentage passing math tests jumped a whopping 26 percentage points – from 41 to 67 percent meeting or exceeding standards." (*Chicago Tribune*, 7/30/04)
- "State test scores rose in 74 percent of Chicago's public schools this year, a boost fueled by double-digit increases in the percentage of 3rd and 5th graders passing math and writing, Chicago officials proudly announced. For the first time in the six years the Illinois Standards Achievement Test has been administered, most 3rd and 5th graders in Chicago met state standards in math. Reading scores in the elementary grades are lagging but still increased." (*Chicago Tribune*, 8/5/04)