



NCLB Making a Difference in Michigan

- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases federal education funding for Michigan to more than \$3.6 billion – 47% more than when the President took office.
- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases Title I funding to \$431.8 million – \$73.2 million over 2001 levels – to help Michigan's neediest children.
- Michigan has received \$83.7 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 \$29.9 million for Michigan. In total, over six years, Michigan is set to receive approximately \$186.5 million in Reading First funds.
- "The gap between achievement levels of white and non-white students is shrinking statewide – in some cases, dramatically. The numbers show that the push to get all children reading is paying off in Grand Rapids. While the district still has a long way to go, the gaps between whites and blacks, and whites and Hispanics narrowed by 15 percent on the fourth-grade reading test." (*Grand Rapids Press*, 5/20/04)
- "Most elementary and high school students with cognitive disabilities who took an alternate assessment test this year met or passed performance standards, the state education department said Friday. The MI-Access test for developmentally disabled students is similar to the Michigan Educational Assessment Program test. Between 76 percent and 86 percent of fourth, seventh, and 11th graders with mild cognitive disabilities met or exceeded the standard for the English section of the MI-Access test, the state Department of Education said. On the math assessment, between 54 percent and 68 percent of those students in fourth, eighth and 11th grades met or exceeded the performance standard. 'Previously, we have had large gaps in assessment information about students with disabilities because tests like the MEAP test are unsuitable for them,' said Jeremy Hughes, the state's chief academic officer and deputy superintendent." (*mLive.com*, 7/7/04)
- "About 80 percent of Michigan's public elementary and middle schools made adequate yearly progress toward complying with a federal law designed to improve reading, writing and math skills, according to state education officials. That's up from about 76 percent last year. 'These are real indications that our schools are headed in the right direction,' state superintendent Tom Watkins said in a statement." (*Associated Press*, 8/5/04)
- "For anyone discouraged by recent years' troubles in Michigan's public schools, the state's latest report cards come as a welcome tonic. They show a sharp improvement in schools and students meeting federal progress standards for reading and math. The record is a credit to educators at state and local levels, and a confirmation that Lansing and Washington authorities are on the right track in pushing for better progress from schools and more options for parents when schools fall short. Among highlights: 710 Michigan elementary and middle schools received A's on state report cards, up from 291 last year; 1,168 schools got B's, up from 818; the share of Michigan schools making 'adequate yearly progress' under the federal *No Child Left Behind Act* rose from 76 to 80 percent; 121 schools that last year were on the federal watch or high-priority sanctions lists moved up to adequate yearly progress for 2004." (*Grand Rapids Press*, 8/19/04)