



NCLB Making a Difference in Montana

- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases federal education funding for Montana to more than \$419.9 million – 41% more than when the President took office.
- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases Title I funding to \$43.5 million – \$14.5 million over 2001 levels – to help Montana's neediest children.
- Montana has received \$9.5 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 \$3.4 million for Montana. In total, over six years, Montana is set to receive approximately \$20.2 million in Reading First funds.
- "In March, the '*No Child Left Behind* Rural Conference' brought 100 education officials from the region to talk to federal officials about the law's effects on rural schools. Lodge Grass, with 179 students in grades nine through 12, already uses distance learning technology, Small said. They transmit an equine class and a junior ROTC class to Hardin High, which reciprocates with a Spanish class." (*Billings Gazette*, 3/13/04)
- "Education officials announced plans to launch a mentoring program pairing high-performing schools with those struggling to meet federal requirements. The \$600,000 proposal, to be funded by grants, is being proposed under Montana's State Action for Educational Leadership Project, a Wallace Foundation effort started in 2000 to help educators better teach students. Governor Judy Martz praised the mentoring program as a way to bring the state in line with federal *No Child Left Behind Act* requirements." (*Associated Press*, 6/17/04)
- "Great Falls public school educators are tickled with what Superintendent Bryan Dun calls 'dramatic' improvement district wide this spring on the standardized Iowa Test of Basic Skills. The overall figures improved in all 15 elementaries, three middle schools and three high schools. 'The whole district really focused on finding ways to help kids improve at whatever level they were at, but especially those who were below proficiency,' said Howard Corey, principal at Chief Joseph Elementary." (*Great Falls Tribune*, 6/27/04)
- "About three of every four Montana students scored at or above their grade levels on a standardized test this year, and average scores were as good as or better than those turned in by two-thirds of the students taking the test nationally, a report from the state Office of Public Instruction shows. Just over 34,000 students in fourth, eighth, and 11th grades took the Iowa Test of Basic Skills last spring. That represents 98 percent of the students enrolled in those grades. Overall, 80 percent of fourth graders, 73 percent of eighth-graders and 76 percent of 11th-graders scored at or beyond their grade levels." (*Associated Press*, 8/31/04)