

NCLB Making a Difference in Pennsylvania



- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases federal education funding for Pennsylvania to more than \$5.3 billion – 41% more than when the President took office.
- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases Title I funding to \$454.5 million – \$99 million over 2001 levels – to help Pennsylvania's neediest children.
- Pennsylvania has received \$89 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 \$31.8 million for Pennsylvania. In total, over six years, Pennsylvania is set to receive approximately \$184 million in Reading First funds.
- "Schools in Pittsburgh and ten other districts nationwide are going to encourage students in kindergarten through eighth grade to read ten books during the summer and write book reports. Students who complete the *No Child Left Behind* Summer Reading Achievers program will win prizes and certificates. Schools with the highest percentage of participating students will receive special recognition." (*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*, 4/22/04)
- "The mega-millions in tax dollars being pumped into reforming Philadelphia's schools have led to the second straight year of test-score gains, school officials said. In reading, 40.2 percent of Philadelphia district students – a 2.5 percent increase – performed at or above the national average. In math, 43.1 percent of district students – a 4.3 percent increase – met or exceeded the national average." (*Philadelphia Daily News*, 6/10/04)
- "Eighty-five percent of schools in the midstate received passing scores on a state report card. Statewide, the same percentage of schools last year met their performance goals, dubbed 'adequate yearly progress.' The prior year, only 60 percent of schools did. 'The news is we're making progress, very positive progress,' said Education Secretary-designate Francis Barnes. 'We know that . . . teachers are working very hard, and are adamant about leading their children to success.'" (*Harrisburg Patriot-News*, 8/26/04)
- "By small steps and big leaps, nearly three-quarters of schools in the Philadelphia area showed improvement on the 2004 state math and reading tests. In Philadelphia, with numerous struggling schools, three quarters recorded reading gains – and an even greater number improved their math showings. Spurred by state goals and the federal *No Child Left Behind* law, school officials have redoubled their efforts to move students beyond 'basic' levels with upgraded curriculums, individualized instruction and remedial help. This year's results suggest that the efforts are paying off." (*Philadelphia Inquirer*, 8/26/04)