



# NCLB Making a Difference in Wyoming

- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases federal education funding for Wyoming to more than \$239.7 million – 57% more than when the President took office.
- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases Title I funding to \$32.3 million – \$12.8 million over 2001 levels – to help Wyoming's neediest children.
- Wyoming has received \$6.9 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 \$2.7 million for Wyoming. In total, over six years, Wyoming is set to receive approximately \$14.4 million in Reading First funds.
- "Education officials from both Natrona County and the Wyoming Department of Education met at Fort Casper Museum on Monday to accept a check from the U.S. Department of Education for \$999,779, to be used for the first year of professional development for Casper's history teachers. Nearly \$3 million will be used for teacher training during the next three years to create a systematic change in the way U.S. history is taught and to develop a community of teacher and student historians who are more active citizens, according to Joel Dvorak, the district's associate superintendent for curriculum and instruction. Throughout the next three years, social studies teachers will take part in history seminars to enrich their own knowledge, as well as to discuss better ways to teach the subject. 'We've all memorized facts all the time, but that's not the best way to learn about history,' said Dvorak. 'We want to teach U.S. history in a rigorous, relevant way that makes it come alive for the kids.'" (*Casper Star-Tribune*, 6/29/04)
- "Wyoming students are showing improvement in reading, writing and math proficiency, state Superintendent of Public Instruction Trent Blankenship said Thursday, citing the latest results of the statewide student testing scores. Fifty-seven percent of Wyoming eighth graders tested at least proficient in writing, compared to 48 percent in 2003." (*Associated Press*, 7/2/04)
- "More Wyoming schools showed improvement in academics and reaching certain student groups during the 2003-2004 year than in the previous school year, according to new school accountability data. 'With a 92 percent rate of the schools and school districts achieving adequate yearly progress, or AYP, Wyoming is doing better than other states that release their results.' said Wyoming Department of Education spokeswoman Deborah Hinckley. 'We feel like we're really ahead of the pack,' Hinckley said. But neither the department nor educators will be happy until all schools fulfill the goals of the federal *No Child Left Behind Act* by 2014, she said." (*Casper Star-Tribune*, 8/25/04)