

NCLB Making a Difference in Colorado



- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases federal education funding for Colorado to more than \$1.7 billion – 56% more than when the President took office.
- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases Title I funding to \$121.9 million – \$41.3 million over 2001 levels – to help Colorado's neediest children.
- Colorado has received \$29.5 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 \$11.6 million for Colorado. In total, over six years, Colorado is set to receive approximately \$59 million in Reading First funds.
- Cache La Poudre School District third-graders continued to make gains in reading, scoring the best they ever have in the seven-year history of the Colorado Student Assessment Program. The school's students scored 14 percentage points higher this year than last year. Pat Woodward, district curriculum generalist, credited their success to a combination of factors, including analyzing past test scores to see where changes needed to be made. (*The Coloradoan*, 5/5/04)
- "Despite severe cuts in state funding (we lost 25 percent of our state positions last year), there were new dollars – all of them thanks to *No Child Left Behind*. Without the 39 percent increase in federal funding over the last two years, we would have been devastated," said William Moloney, Colorado Education Commissioner. (*Rocky Mountain News*, 6/9/04)
- "In the past 3 years, the percentage of students passing the fourth-grade CSAP test has increased sevenfold in reading and thirtyfold in writing at Bessemer Elementary in Pueblo City School District #60. More than 80 percent of the school's students receive free or reduced-price lunches. Many suggest an onslaught of grant money from *No Child Left Behind* as well as the practice of scientifically-based teaching methods are responsible for the school's improvement." (Pueblo City School District #60 website, 7/6/04)
- "Colorado's youngest disabled students have some basic reading and writing skills but struggle with mathematics concepts, according to results from the state's alternative standardized exams. 'There are definitely some good things going on with these students,' said Janet Filbin, who handles the Colorado Student Assessment Program Alternate data for the education department's Exceptional Student Services Unit. 'Teachers are now beginning to see their students as readers, writers, mathematicians, and scientists.'" (*Rocky Mountain News*, 8/14/04)