

# NCLB Making a Difference in Virginia



- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases federal education funding for Virginia to more than \$2.3 billion – 45% more than when the President took office.
- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases Title I funding to \$206.7 million – \$64.7 million over 2001 levels – to help Virginia's neediest children.
- Virginia has received \$50.2 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 \$18.5 million for Virginia. In total, over six years, Virginia is set to receive approximately \$99.1 million in Reading First funds.
- "Perhaps no where in South Hampton Roads is the achievement gap a greater focus than in Norfolk, whose superintendent, John O. Simpson, co-chairs the national Council of Great City Schools' achievement gap task force. In the past five years, Norfolk's gaps have been cut in half in a number of areas, and by 75 percent in high-school English and Algebra II. Simpson is now focusing on black students in diverse settings, including fully accredited schools such as Larchmont and Willoughby elementaries, which have a more equal racial mix but where black students' scores are markedly lower." (*Virginia Pilot*, 4/12/04)
- "Langley High School is, by virtually all measures, among the top public schools in America – teeming with bright students, first-rate teachers, innovative programs and fawningly supportive parents. But last spring, it fell short of *No Child Left Behind's* rigorous requirements. At least one subgroup at the school failed to make 'adequate yearly progress,' and under the rules promulgated by the Department of Education, that meant the school fell short of the mark. 'We were upset to be identified as a failing school, when we knew what terrific work we are doing. But I have to say that the next year, we did go out and remediate the heck out of those special-ed kids. The teachers took it personally, do a lot on their own time. And now we don't have any underperforming subgroups,' said Langley's principal, William Clendaniel." (*Washington Post*, 6/7/04)
- "Newport News schools will use an \$874,000 federal Teaching American History grant to help middle school teachers better understand American history and develop ways to make it more interesting for students. The grant allows teachers to buy instructional materials, go on educational field trips, attend conferences or take courses, all to better understand different history topics. Division officials hope the three-year grant will reduce academic disparities found among students by 50 percent and increase overall achievement by 25 percent." (*Daily Press*, 6/30/04)