

NCLB Making a Difference in Alabama

- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases federal education funding for Alabama to \$1.8 billion – 50% more than when the President took office.
- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases Title I funding to \$198.5 million – \$61.1 million over 2001 levels – to help Alabama's neediest children.
- Alabama has received \$52.5 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 \$20 million for Alabama. In total, over six years, Alabama is set to receive approximately \$102 million in Reading First funds.
- "Mobile County's last round of standardized quarterly tests showed that 94 percent of the first-graders at Calcedeaver Elementary School scored at or above average in reading. Mary Ann Stockman, Calcedeaver's reading coach, credits the school's participation in the federally funded Alabama Reading First Initiative program for the success." (*Mobile Register*, 2/18/04)
- "Ten Mobile County elementary schools achieved some of the top reading scores in the state among high-poverty schools participating in the Alabama Reading First Initiative. Four of the schools even ranked in the top 10 statewide among all schools involved in Reading First. Sheila Mosley, coordinator of elementary education in Mobile County, said the 10 Reading First schools had low reading scores prior to implementing the program last fall. 'It does work,' Mosley said. 'The schools are motivated, because now they have a clear focus on what they need to do and where they need to take the children.' In an effort to duplicate the success, the system will unveil similar reading programs at five other struggling schools this fall, Mosley said. Among the Reading First schools, Alba Elementary showed the most growth between fall and spring administrations of the test. Thirty percent of the students passed in the fall, while 77 percent passed in the spring. Lisa Williams, principal at Alba, credited Reading First with the improvement. Williams said Alba's faculty held meetings to discuss the progress of every child, and the teachers and coaches 'focused continually on meeting the needs of all students.' Through Reading First, Williams said, 'we will assure that no child is left behind.'" (*Mobile Register*, 7/22/04)
- "The latest standardized test scores indicate that the achievement gap between black and white students may slowly be shrinking in Mobile County. 'Yes, I'm pleased because we are closing the gap,' said Samantha Ingram, an assistant superintendent for the Mobile County Public School System. 'Am I fully pleased? No, because we haven't completely closed the gap.' Ingram credits federal funding with helping the system improve classroom instruction at mostly poor and black schools. The system receives what is known as Title One funding in roughly half of its schools to buy computers and extra books, provide one-on-one reading instruction, after-school tutoring and training for teachers. 'We've taken those resources and targeted those gaps,' Ingram said." (*Mobile Register*, 9/2/04)

