



NCLB Making a Difference in Arkansas

- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases federal education funding for Arkansas to more than \$948.4 million – 54% more than when the President took office.
- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases Title I funding to \$122.8 million – \$37.3 million over 2001 levels – to help Arkansas' neediest children.
- Arkansas has received \$32.3 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 \$12.7 million for Arkansas. In total, over six years, Arkansas is set to receive approximately \$64.3 million in Reading First funds.
- "Tutoring and other forms of after-school instruction required by federal law for some of the nation's most academically troubled schools are up and running in Little Rock – about four months after school district officials learned they would have to provide those services." (*Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, 2/17/04)
- "Two independent charter schools gained renewal from the state for three years after promises to exceed state academic goals. In their renewed charters, Academics Plus in Maumelle and Benton County School of the Arts in Rogers told the State Board of Education that they would attempt to do 20 percent better than the minimum yearly progress required by the state under *No Child Left Behind*." (*Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, 3/16/04)
- "The Little Rock School District was awarded a \$1.3 million grant to increase the number of low- and middle-income students taking advanced placement courses, school and federal officials announced. The two-year grant, distributed through the *No Child Left Behind Act*, will create the Accelerated Student Achievement Program at six district schools, interim superintendent Morris Holmes said at a news conference at Hall High School. 'This money is going somewhere,' Holmes said. 'This energy and excitement is going somewhere.' Through the program, advanced placement teachers will participate in conferences, workshops and other professional development opportunities. The program also includes online resources for high school students, tutoring and a college preparation awareness program for middle school students. Preparing students for college is a 'moral issue,' Holmes said. 'It is wrong for us to continue down this road and not have a significantly larger number of our children excel,' he said." (*Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, 4/13/04)
- "A new reading program has paid big dividends this year at Wonder Elementary School. The program is a comprehensive balanced approach to literacy and it's being used at Wonder in grades kindergarten through the third. The numbers show the program is working. In 1998, 79 percent of Wonder kindergarten students scored below the 50th percentile. Last year for the spring 2003 SAT 9 test, only 31 percent of the kindergarten students were below the 50th percentile. This year, Wonder students had a literacy block in the morning that lasted four hours. The block includes familiar reading, shared reading, phonics/spelling, reading aloud, guided reading groups, a writer's workshop and other valuable group blocks." (*Evening Times*, 5/26/04)