



NCLB Making a Difference in Nebraska

- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases federal education funding for Nebraska to more than \$738.7 million – 48% more than when the President took office.
- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases Title I funding to \$50.8 million – \$17 million over 2001 levels – to help Nebraska's neediest children.
- Nebraska has received \$10.9 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 \$4.2 million for Nebraska. In total, over six years, Nebraska is set to receive approximately \$23.8 million in Reading First funds.
- "Nebraska's fourth- and eighth-grade students scored above the national average in math and reading on the 'Nation's Report Card' for 2003. In reading, 66 percent of Nebraska's fourth-graders reached at least a basic level. Among eighth-graders, 77 percent performed at basic or better, compared to 72 percent nationally." (*Omaha Channel*, 11/13/03)
- "McCook Public Schools board of education accepted a \$420,000+ reading grant. McCook's Reading First grant, awarded by the U.S. Department of Education, will fund \$220,000 in its first year and \$200,000 in its second year. The purpose of the Reading First grant is for all Nebraska students to score at the proficient level on state reading standards by the end of third grade. Elementary principal Kathy Latta said the grant will benefit all young readers, yet its main focus is to 'catch up' students who are, or are at risk of, falling through the cracks. The first-year grant will pay for a new K-3 reading series, hiring a reading coach, summer training for teachers and attendance by Latta and the reading coach at a national training conference. Board member Jack Clark was impressed with the grant. 'Kids who can read can do anything and go anywhere,' said Clark." (*McCook Daily Gazette*, 4/22/04)
- "The Grand Island Public Schools is one of five Nebraska school districts that formally received a 21st Century Community Learning Center grant in June. 'The goal of the federal program is to enhance student achievement and help students meet state standards in reading, mathematics, science and social studies/history,' Nebraska Education Commissioner Doug Christensen said. The centers will offer a variety of services, including remedial education, academic enrichment, tutoring, mentoring, programs for students learning English for the first time as well as programs addressing technology, parental involvement, family literacy, drug and violence prevention and counseling." (*Grand Island Independent*, 6/11/04)
- "Nearly 7 in 10 students in the Grand Island school district demonstrated proficiency on district assessments of student achievement in reading, writing, speaking and mathematics." (*Grand Island Independent*, 8/13/04)