



NCLB Making a Difference in Texas

- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases federal education funding for Texas to more than \$7.6 billion – 60% more than when the President took office.
- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases Title I funding to \$1.2 billion – \$505.9 million over 2001 levels – to help Texas' neediest children.
- Texas has received \$273.7 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 \$107.9 million for Texas. In total, over six years, Texas is set to receive approximately \$532.5 million in Reading First funds.
- "Houston's third-graders did better this year on the state's reading test, even though passing scores were tougher to come by, HISD officials announced. Eighty-seven percent of Houston Independent School District's third-graders passed the reading portion of the TAKS test in 2004. Nearly a third of HISD's third-graders earned the state's 'commended' label because they missed no more than two questions." (*Houston Chronicle*, 3/25/04)
- "Nearly three-fourths of Texas high school juniors passed the state's graduation exam this year – a success rate that was higher than expected. 'Students and teachers worked hard all year, and these results confirm the progress our schools are making,' said State Education Commissioner Shirley Neeley." (*Dallas Morning News*, 5/26/04)
- "Most Texas third-graders have been promoted after passing the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills this year. The overall 97 percent passing rate was a slight improvement over last year, when about 96 percent made the grade. Nearly 94 percent of the students who took the Spanish version of the test also passed. 'These are strong results,' said state Education Commissioner Shirley Neeley." (*Dallas Morning News*, 7/15/04)
- "Across the board, Advanced Placement (AP) enrollment is skyrocketing, according to data released by the College Board. Texas public school students took 94,312 AP exams last school year, an 11.6 percent increase from 2002-03. Nationally, the AP program grew by 8.7 percent in the nation's public schools. But it's the growth in AP enrollment among underclassmen that really sets Texas apart. Nationally, the number of ninth- and 10th-graders taking AP courses doubled between 2001 and 2004, but in Texas the enrollments more than tripled. To see the full scope of the growth, go back 10 academic years to 1994-95, when barely 900 underclassmen across Texas took an AP exam. By last school year, that number ballooned to 14,505, according to the College Board, which administers the AP tests." (*Dallas Morning News*, 9/1/04)