

NCLB Making a Difference in Arizona

- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases federal education funding for Arizona to \$3.6 billion – 83% more than when the President took office.
- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases Title I funding to \$249.7 million – \$108.6 million over 2001 levels – to help Arizona's neediest children.
- Arizona has received \$58.6 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 \$24.4 million for Arizona. In total, over six years, Arizona is set to receive approximately \$116 million in Reading First funds.
- "Science and research are helping Arizona's youngest students learn to read faster and better than children of previous generations, educators say. All Arizona schools base reading instruction on five key elements identified through scientific research. Sixty-three schools not only use those elements but also teaching strategies based on how the brain learns. With the help of federal Reading First grants, they are using teacher training, assessment specialists and aides to help children read fluently by the end of third grade. Tempe's Evans Elementary School saw a 71 percent increase in the number of kindergarteners reading on or near grade level in the spring semester compared to last fall, and a 37 percent decrease in the number of kindergarteners needing intensive help with reading skills. Mesa's Hawthorne Elementary School reported a 27 percent increase in the number of first-graders reading on or near grade level, and a 29 percent decrease in those needing intensive help." (*East Valley Tribune*, 6/1/04)
- "Historically English-language learners are the forgotten students,' Jaime Castellano, a Florida researcher who studies English-language learners, said. 'The expectation we as educators have about this population of students is: If they don't speak English, how can they be gifted? It's a myth that's perpetrated year after year.' Last school year, Phoenix's Washington Elementary School District received a \$787,000 federal grant for three years to train teachers how to identify and create lesson plans for the brightest English-language learners. Some of these students are attending after-school and summer programs, where teachers can test their new skills." (*Arizona Republic*, 6/22/04)
- "A dozen rural school districts in Maricopa county received a \$1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to set up professional development programs for American history teachers. The 12 rural school districts are part of the Maricopa County Small School Consortium, a remote and rural school district consortium with limited resources and few teachers trained to teach American history." (*Phoenix Business Journal*, 7/12/04)

