



NCLB Making a Difference in Connecticut

- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases federal education funding for Connecticut to more than \$1 billion – 49% more than when the President took office.
- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases Title I funding to \$111.7 million – \$25.7 million over 2001 levels – to help Connecticut's neediest children.
- Connecticut has received \$21.4 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 \$7.7 million for Connecticut. In total, over six years, Connecticut is set to receive approximately \$42.5 million in Reading First funds.
- "Since 2000, cities narrowed the achievement gap in fourth-grade reading, and saw a 10.2 percentage point increase in the number of children taking the test. President Bush's *No Child Left Behind Act* shares some of the credit in moving the city scores, superintendents said. 'We stepped it up a bit because of all the pressure coming down from NCLB,' Waterbury Superintendent David Snead said. New London Superintendent Christopher Clouet also gave a nod to the federal law, saying, 'The good news about *No Child Left Behind* is it forced schools to focus on reading instruction in a way that had not been done before.'" (*Hartford Courant*, 6/26/04)
- "As schools raise the stakes on Connecticut's annual 10th-grade exam, not only are more sophomores taking the test, they are getting better scores, new results show. Students in most groups, including those in special education classes and the state's poorest cities, made encouraging gains on a test that many students once used to skip. Educators had feared that scores might decline as more students, particularly those in special education, took the test, but in most cases that did not happen." (*Hartford Courant*, 8/31/04)
- "More than three quarters of the state's public high schools are meeting new federal standards under the *No Child Left Behind Law*, state education officials said. Of Connecticut's 180 public high schools, only 42 failed to meet the standard for adequate yearly progress based on standardized test scores. Last year, just 46 percent of state high schools met the federal guidelines. 'Connecticut's high schools should be very proud of the progress made in just one year,' state Education Commissioner Betty Sternberg said. 'It shows that our students and educators are working very hard and are serious about raising their achievement.' Sternberg and others said the key improvement came in participation rates, measured by the number of students taking the Connecticut Academic Performance test." (*Associated Press*, 9/8/04)