

# NCLB Making a Difference in Georgia



- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases federal education funding for Georgia to more than \$3 billion – 54% more than when the President took office.
- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases Title I funding to \$410 million – \$152.5 million over 2001 levels – to help Georgia's neediest children.
- Georgia has received \$89.5 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 \$34.3 million for Georgia. In total, over six years, Georgia is set to receive approximately \$180 million in Reading First funds.
- "Even though it has one of Georgia's highest percentage of Hispanic students, Gainesville Elementary School, which opened in August, recorded a 90 percent passing rate among its third-graders on the reading exam. Shawn Arevalo McCollough, the principal, said he was aware of the challenges faced at a school where 65 percent of the 500 students are Hispanic. 'We said from the beginning we were not going to make any excuses,' he said. He credited the students' success to after-school and Saturday sessions in which they concentrated on reading, language arts and math — the basic sections of the curriculum exam. 'We outworked everybody,' McCollough said. 'That's how we closed the achievement gap.'" (*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, 6/3/04)
- "In a news conference, state Superintendent of Schools Kathy Cox declared Georgia's overall school picture a success. She noted that 78 percent of schools met the state's testing goals, up from 64 percent last year. And many of the schools that missed the goals did so in only one area, she said. Cox said she was proud that 26 Georgia schools came off the 'needs improvement' list after five years on it. 'We are this close to having tremendous success, almost unprecedented success,' Cox said." (*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, 7/7/04)
- "Out of 1,803 teachers in the Houston County School District, 99.6 percent are considered 'highly qualified,' according to school administrators. 'I want every child in the school district to have the best teacher they can have,' said Ron Busbee, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources for the Houston County Board of Education. According to Busbee, all Houston County teachers should reach the 'highly qualified' status by the middle of the school year. Before the *No Child Left Behind* requirement, only half of middle school teachers were asked to teach in their field of degree expertise, he said." (*Macon Telegraph*, 8/1/04)
- "While Georgia made small gains in its SAT performance, the state's Latino students took a significant jump. They averaged a score of 949 out of a possible 1600, outperforming their Latino peers nationwide by more than 30 points. State officials are also encouraged that more black students and Latinos are taking the SATs and participating in more challenging classes." (*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, 9/2/04)