

NCLB Making a Difference in Idaho



- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases federal education funding for Idaho to more than \$494.5 million – 56% more than when the President took office.
- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases Title I funding to \$45.1 million – \$17.9 million over 2001 levels – to help Idaho's neediest children.
- Idaho has received \$11.8 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 \$4.6 million for Idaho. In total, over six years, Idaho is set to receive approximately \$21 million in Reading First funds.
- "Principal Susan Williamson rocked the boat to turn a school around. Most of the students at Boise's Taft Elementary School come from low-income homes. Taft's achievement test scores were once among the district's lowest. Today, reading scores are among the best in the Boise School District. Discipline problems are down dramatically. And parents are now requesting that their children attend Taft, even if they live near other elementary schools. Williamson showed that kids' economic disadvantages do not need to hamper learning. How did she change the culture of the school? She restored order and discipline, including how teachers dressed for class and how kids behaved on the playground. She scrounged for additional dollars to get better training for her teachers and aides and more educational opportunities for kids, and she relied on data from testing to drive class instruction. Last year, it was recognized by the Department as a *No Child Left Behind* Blue Ribbon School." (Blue Ribbon School application)
- "Boise County, just north of the city of Boise, is divided into three tiny school districts separated by mountains: Garden Valley, Horseshoe Bend, and Idaho City. All three were failing miserably in 1999. Eighty percent of their third graders performed below grade level, twice the Idaho average. Then, using federal dollars, the districts offered a half-day of free preschool education to all four-year-olds and most three-year-olds. About the same time, Albertsons funded a Parents as Teachers program. The result was a complete reversal. By 2003, more than 80 percent of the county's third-graders scored at or above grade level." (*Idaho Falls Post Register*, 4/11/04)
- "The Idaho State Board of Education unanimously approved standards for students who are Limited English Proficient. 'It's important for us to have a uniform set of goals,' Board Chairman Rod Lewis said. 'It indicates that we're making good progress in trying to reach our goals of improving the academic achievement of all our students.' For years Idaho students learning English have been lagging behind their mainstream counterparts in school achievement. The adopted standards set expectations for schools and teachers for improving the learning of their LEP students. Idaho Schools Superintendent Marilyn Howard said setting standards would help schools refine their efforts to reach out to students who are struggling with English. 'It provides a way to make sure we're focusing on LEP students,' she said." (*Idaho Statesman*, 6/19/04)