



NCLB Making a Difference in South Dakota

- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases federal education funding for South Dakota to more than \$431.6 million – 46% more than when the President took office.
- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases Title I funding to \$38.1 million – \$16.2 million over 2001 levels – to help South Dakota's neediest children.
- South Dakota has received \$7.1 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 \$2.7 million for South Dakota. In total, over six years, South Dakota is set to receive approximately \$14.5 million in Reading First funds.
- "Sioux Falls students have raised their standardized test scores in nearly every subject, the most recent results show. Students in third through eighth grades made jumps of at least two percentile points and as many as 8 points on the SAT10. High school juniors had a gain of 6 points. Rick Melmer, State Secretary of Education, said he is excited about the results and optimistic that they reflect improvements under federal *No Child Left Behind Act*." (*Sioux Falls Argus Leader*, 5/29/04)
- "Alcester-Hudson Elementary was labeled as a school in need of improvement three years ago, but teachers and staff now say it was a blessing in disguise. The school has worked its way off the improvement list set up by the federal *No Child Left Behind* law. 'Being put on school improvement was one of the best things that happened to our schools,' Kathy Johannsen, the test, technology and school improvement coordinator at Alcester, said. Now, 88 percent of Alcester students are proficient in reading and 85 percent in math, scores far higher than the state proficiency rate of 71 percent in reading and 59 percent in math." (*Associated Press*, 7/27/04)
- "Statewide, students made significant progress overall in both reading and math, the two subjects tested in the spring Dakota STEP exam, said Rick Melmer, state education secretary. Seventy-one percent of students were proficient or advanced in math, up from 59 percent in 2003. In reading, 77 percent made the cut, an increase from 71 percent in 2003. 'Our educators in our local school districts need to be applauded for real hard work. I think schools really rolled up their sleeves,' he said." (*Sioux Falls Argus Leader*, 8/30/04)