

Education

President Bush has made the commitment to make a real difference in America's schools for our Nation's children. Through the No Child Left Behind Act, signed into law by President Bush in January 2002, historic levels of funding and support have been combined with an unprecedented commitment to achieving high standards and accountability to ensure that America's schools are producing real results for every child in America. The President's FY 2005 Budget reflects these goals.

Since 2001, President Bush has:

- Made improving education a major goal, and parents, teachers, and principals are seeing the positive differences in America's schools;
- Proposed and signed into law the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, which raises standards for students, putting the focus on student achievement, and helping students become proficient at reading and math. It also helps to close the achievement gap that exists between students of different socio-economic backgrounds. Using unique, state-designed accountability plans, schools are measuring the progress of student achievement, keeping parents informed of student and school progress, identifying schools in need of improvement, and providing support for these schools and districts:
 - NCLB reforms are starting to take hold. In January 2001, only 11 states were in full compliance with previous Federal education accountability standards. With the President's unwavering commitment to education, by June 2003, all 50 states had approved accountability plans under NCLB to ensure that students become proficient in reading and math;
 - For the first time in history, schools must ensure that all students, even students with disabilities and those who are most disadvantaged, become proficient in reading and math;
 - According to a study released in March 2004 by the Council of Great City Schools, the achievement gap in both reading and math in urban schools between African-Americans and whites, and Hispanics and whites, is narrowing. The report shows that all children can learn if given the chance;
 - Math scores are improving. Around the Nation, scores are up 9 points for fourth-graders and 5 points for eighth-graders since 2000 on the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP). Low-income fourth-graders have improved even more dramatically, with an increase of 14 points; and
 - NCLB gives parents unprecedented levels of school choice so their children won't be relegated to low-performing schools. According to Education Week (May 5, 2004), the Chicago Sun-Times reported that students who transferred to better schools under NCLB posted much higher than average gains, and much higher than their own previous gains, after the first year of school choice;
- Invested more money in elementary and secondary education than at any other time in American history;
- Increased Federal funding for elementary and secondary education by 49% since FY 2001 and total Department of Education funding by 36% since FY 2001;

- Increased funding for Title I grants to help disadvantaged students by \$4.6 billion (or 52%) to help raise academic achievement;
- Proposed and signed into law the Reading First and Early Reading First initiatives, the largest Federal reading programs, to ensure that every child learns to read by the third grade. These programs promote scientifically-based reading instruction programs that are proven to work for every child:
 - All 50 States, the District of Columbia, American Samoa and the Bureau of Indian Affairs are participating in Reading First to ensure that every child is reading on grade level by the end of the third grade. Reading First funds also provide training to tens of thousands of teachers. As of July 2004, States have received over \$2.5 billion in Reading First grants as part of the President's five-year, \$5 billion initiative;
 - Reading First is improving reading instruction and raising student achievement for more than 1.2 million students in kindergarten through third grade. Effective early reading instruction can prevent the difficulties that too many American students, especially disadvantaged students, now face. Progress in reading programs is closely monitored to provide immediate intervention and prevent students from falling behind;
 - President Bush supports America's teachers through Reading First by providing professional development to more than 75,000 kindergarten through third grade teachers. This training ensures that teachers, including special education teachers, have the skills they need to teach reading and monitor student progress; and
 - Quadrupled funding for reading programs to ensure that all students are reading at grade level by grade 3;
- Increased funding for Special Education grants by \$4.7 billion (or 75%) to better serve students with disabilities;
- Strengthened Federal early childhood education programs by focusing on school readiness and improving accountability through: training over 50,000 Head Start teachers in the latest research based teaching techniques; enacting a national reporting system; funding additional research on school readiness; and providing over 15 million informational pamphlets to parents and caregivers;
- Increased funding for recruiting and retaining highly qualified teachers and principals by 39%;
- Re-focused education research so parents, teachers, and administrators have easy access to methods with proven results;
- Provided approximately \$60 billion in student aid annually through grants, loans, and work study to help nearly 10 million students attend college each year;
- Initiated tax reforms that help families save for college; and
- Created education and training vouchers for foster care youth, securing funding to provide \$5,000 vouchers to 17,400 eligible youth.

The President's FY 2005 Budget builds on the successes of the last three years by continuing unprecedented increases in Title I and Special Education to help schools implement No Child Left Behind and meet the needs of students with disabilities. The Budget includes:

- \$57.3 billion for total Education funding, a 36% increase over the 2001 level. This increase brings Federal education funding to its highest level ever:
 - The \$15.1 billion increase from FY 2001 to the President's 2005 Budget is the largest year increase in any President's four-year term;
 - In four years (including the proposed 2005 Budget), the Bush Administration has devoted \$216 billion to education, compared to \$141 billion in the last four years of the previous administration – a 53% increase over the previous four-year period;
- \$36.9 billion for elementary and secondary education programs (which include NCLB and IDEA), 49% higher than the 2001 level (a \$12.1 billion increase), and \$1.4 billion higher than the 2004 level;
- \$13.3 billion for the Title I program to help disadvantaged students, the cornerstone NCLB program – 52% (\$4.6 billion) more than in 2001, and 8.1% (\$1 billion) over the 2004 level. The increase over 2001 is the largest four-year increase in the history of the Department of Education;
- \$11.1 billion for special education IDEA Grants to States, 75% (\$4.7 billion) more than in 2001, and 10% (\$1 billion) over the 2004 level. The increase over 2001 is the largest four-year increase in the history of the Department of Education;
- \$1.3 billion for reading (Reading First and Early Reading First), more than four times the 2001 level and \$139 million over the FY 2004 level;
- Strengthening early childhood programs, including an additional \$169 million for Head Start and a \$22 million increase for IDEA for infants and toddlers with disabilities;
- More than \$500 million for programs to promote parental choice – an increase of more than \$100 million, including \$14 million for the District of Columbia to provide parents, particularly low-income parents, with more options to obtain a quality education for their children who are trapped in low-performing schools;
- Increased funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Hispanic-serving institutions, bringing total increases under the Bush Administration to 30% by 2005;
- \$333 million in additional funding for new initiatives to improve reading, math, and science, and the quality of teaching at the high school level. Accountability through testing of children in grades 3-8 is at the heart of NCLB so that teachers and parents will know whether students are learning. For this reason, many school districts focus NCLB reforms on elementary schools. However, a focus on improved student achievement is also needed in our high schools because only 70% of our high school students graduate;

- Funding for job training to ensure that America's students and workforce are ready for Jobs in the 21st Century. The Budget supports new initiatives with over \$500 million in new funding that will help students make the transition from high school to college and from college, including community colleges, to the workforce, including:
 - \$40 million in new funding to create an Adjunct Teacher Corps for professionals to teach middle and high school courses in the core academic subjects, particularly mathematics and science;
 - \$33 million in new funding to provide Enhanced Pell Grants to low-income students who complete a rigorous high school curriculum;
 - \$250 million in new funding to help community colleges train workers for fast growing jobs to build on the success of the President's High-Growth Job Training Initiative;
 - \$28 million more for training teachers in low-income schools to teach Advanced Placement courses; and
 - \$12 million more for the State Scholars program, a partnership with business to encourage high schools students to take a rigorous curriculum;

- The President's FY 2005 Budget also requests \$12.9 billion (up from \$8.75 billion in 2001) for Pell Grants to low-income students pursuing a degree or certificate which can be used for attending technical schools, community colleges, or four-year colleges. Since 2001, the President's Budgets have increased the number of Pell Grant recipients by one million and have increased the maximum award per low-income student;

- Larger Pell Grants, up to an additional \$1,000 per year for the first two years, for students who prepare for college with demanding courses in high school – the State Scholars curriculum;

- \$1 billion in annual funding from the Perkins Vocational Education program redirected into a new Secondary and Technical Education program (Sec Tech) that requires schools participating in the program to offer 4 years of English, 3 years of math and science, and 3.5 years of social studies as part of their vocational education curriculum;

- Creation of a Striving Readers Initiative to provide extra help to middle and high school students who fall behind in reading. The President's FY 2005 Budget provides \$100 million for the Striving Readers Initiative;

- Increased funding for the Mathematics and Science Partnership Program to provide extra help to middle and high school students who fall behind in math. The President's FY 2005 Budget provides an additional \$120 million for the Program;

- Expansion of Advanced Placement (AP) programs in low-income schools. The President's FY 2005 Budget provides an increase of \$28 million for the expansion of AP programs;

- Incentives to invite math and science professionals from the private sector to teach part-time in our high schools. The President's FY 2005 Budget also includes \$227 million in loan forgiveness for math, science, and special education teachers in low-income schools; and

- Beyond the FY 2005 Budget, the President also proposes \$100 million for a new public-private partnership (\$50 million in Federal funds) beginning in 2006 to provide grants to low-income students who study math or science in colleges and universities. Under this plan, approximately 20,000 low-income students would receive up to \$5000 each to study math or science.

For Other Information About the President's Accomplishments and Proposals:

FY 2005 Budget

Department of Education: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2005/education.html>

Education

The White House: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/earlychildhood/>

The White House: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/education/>

No Child Left Behind

Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov/nclb/landing.jhtml?src=fb>