

NCLB Making a Difference in Idaho



- Between 2003 and 2005 (latest data available):
 - Fourth-grade reading proficiency increased by 11 percentage points
 - Fourth-grade mathematics proficiency increased by 13 percentage points
 - The Hispanic-white achievement gap in fourth-grade reading narrowed by 11 percentage points
 - The Hispanic-white achievement gap in fourth-grade mathematics narrowed by nine percentage points
 - The poor-not poor achievement gap in fourth-grade reading narrowed by six percentage points
 - The poor-not poor achievement gap in fourth-grade mathematics narrowed by seven percentage points

(Idaho Report Card)
- “Five years ago, when the state began testing students, only 29 percent of American Indian third graders [in Idaho] were reading at their grade level. The most recent scores show that half of all American Indian students are reading at grade level.” *(Associated Press, 3/15/05)*
- “Molding young minds—it’s the job of educators all over the state. But at Gate City Elementary, Principal Janice Green says it’s not just about teaching; it’s about creating a desire in each student to love learning. ‘The key things we have worked on to be a merit school are academic—very strongly on our academic skills, making sure students are gaining the knowledge that they need. We’ve also worked on becoming a safe school, putting in place the things that make children feel comfortable.’ For the first year, Gate City has been awarded the status of a state merit school—a title that has brought a lot of pride and raised the bar. ... Part of the eligibility to be a merit school is showing improvements on the ISAT [Idaho Standards Assessment Test].... To help students excel on the test, reading programs like accelerated reader have been implemented, which Media Generalist Jodie Kelley says really improves reading and comprehension skills. ... These young minds, without question will continue to grow, but administrators and educators say they continue to keep the title of merit, giving their students the education that will take them wherever they want to go. Lewis and Clark Elementary in Pocatello has also been deemed a merit school for their continued improvements in education.” *(KPVI-TV Boise, 4/20/05)*
- “Jefferson Elementary School students got to pat themselves on the back Thursday. The school is one of only 10 in the state the Idaho Department of Education deemed a Distinguished School in Reading. Jefferson County School District Superintendent Ron Tolman presented the school with a framed certificate from the education department Thursday. At the assembly, the top reader in each grade spoke for one minute about what he or she gets from books, Principal Teri Powell said. ... This is the first year the education department has given the awards. Distinguished schools made the most progress toward closing an achievement gap between two specific groups of kids. This year, economically disadvantaged kids made the biggest gains. Jefferson students spend 40 minutes each day on reading lessons and an additional 40 minutes with personal instruction, Powell said. Parents are also urged to practice reading with their kids for 20 minutes every night. ‘It takes everybody for a school to meet No Child Left Behind,’ Powell said. ‘The kids have to care and the parents have to be willing to help us at home because we don’t have enough time to practice in school.’” *(Idaho Falls Post Register, 3/18/05)*