

# NCLB Making a Difference in Wisconsin



- “A record 84.7 percent of third-graders in Wisconsin public schools scored as proficient or advanced in reading this year, the state Department of Public Instruction said this month. The agency said the percentage was up 2.5 points from 2004 and 22.6 points from 1998, the first year Wisconsin Reading Comprehension Test scores were reported at the minimal, basic, proficient and advanced proficiency levels. Only 8.8 percent of students scored at the minimal and basic proficiency levels this year, compared with 25.9 percent in 1998. ... The percentage of black third-graders rated proficient or advanced increased from 46 percent in 1998 to 69 percent this year, while the percentage of white children at those levels rose over the same period from 71 percent to 92 percent. Hispanic third-graders also showed large improvement. In 1998, 45 percent were rated as proficient or better on the test, compared with 70 percent this year.” (*The Associated Press*, 7/14/05)
- “Results compiled by researchers for Milwaukee Public Schools show that, compared with five years ago, the gap between Milwaukee and the state as a whole has declined in reading for fourth-, eighth-, and tenth-graders and for math for fourth-graders.... The smallest gap now is 20 percentage points in fourth-grade reading, with 62 percent of MPS students proficient and 82 percent of state students proficient.” (*Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*, 5/24/05)
- “Students in Oshkosh matched or outperformed their statewide peers in most grades or subjects on the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination achievement tests, according to test scores released by the state Tuesday. Eighty-five percent of fourth-graders in Oshkosh scored proficient or better in reading compared with only 82 percent statewide. Also, 79 percent of fourth-graders scored proficient or better in math, compared to 72 percent statewide. Oshkosh eighth-graders made the biggest improvement, jumping from 71 percent proficient in math on 2003’s test to 82 percent this year. Tenth-graders also made gains from 68 percent to 76 percent proficient in reading this year.... ‘The district has been working hard to reinvigorate our curriculum. We’ve refocused and I think we’re starting to see the results of that,’ [Phil Eickstaedt, director of standards and assessment] said.” (*Oshkosh Northwestern*, 5/25/05)
- “The Sheboygan Area School District reported Tuesday that nearly all of its fourth-, eighth- and 10th-grade classes met or exceeded state standards on the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concept Exams. ‘We’re performing very well,’ said Jack Westfall, coordinator of assessment for the district. ... District students scored above the state average on the math and reading tests except for eighth-grade readers who fell just below the state average. The district did particularly well in math. All of the middle and high schools and nine of the 12 elementary classes tested above the state average in math. ... In reading, seven of the 12 elementary schools tested at or above the state average with one, Cleveland Elementary, receiving a perfect score. ... ‘Washington, for example, is doing this new Arkansas Model,’ [assistant superintendent of student instructional services Bill] Walter said. ‘They are really spending a lot of time working on reading and having teachers that supporting students. The preliminary information shows that this is going to be very successful.’ The school is also expanding its reading intervention program, Read 180, to include the high schools, all of the middle schools and three elementary schools. ... On the whole there is an upward trend with all of the test scores for both the district and the state, and Westfall said that administrators are hoping it will keep on improving.” (*Sheboygan Press*, 5/25/05)