

# NCLB Making a Difference in Wyoming



- Between 2002 and 2005 (latest data available):
  - Fourth-grade reading proficiency increased by three percentage points
  - Fourth-grade mathematics proficiency increased by six percentage points

(*Wyoming Report Card*)
- “A few schools showed tremendous growth this year in Wyoming Comprehensive Assessment System (WyCAS) results. Arp Elementary in Laramie County School District #1 now has 84 percent of its students proficient or advanced in math as compared to only 33 percent last year. Arp also showed huge gains in reading, increasing from 29 percent to 84 percent, and in writing, increasing from 21 percent to 62 percent. Powell Middle School results show an 18 percent increase in reading and a 10 percent increase in math.” (*Green River Star*, 7/5/05)
- “Test scores went up for all 11th-graders in the Natrona County School District. Last year, only about 37 percent of Natrona County School District 11th-graders were proficient or above in math. This year, the number jumped to 51 percent. Likewise, proficiency scores increased from 52 percent to 61 percent in writing and from 42 percent to 56 percent in reading. ... At Kelly Walsh, which Deputy State Superintendent Annette Bohling noted as one of the most improved high schools in the state, 56 percent of 11th-graders were proficient or better in math, 65 percent were proficient in writing, and 61 percent passed reading tests. ‘It’s really hard for large schools who have a population as large as Kelly Walsh and Natrona County high schools to have large gains,’ Bohling said. ‘When you’re trying to move a cohort of 300 or 400 students and you see a jump of 18 percent in math or 22 percent in reading, such as at Kelly Walsh, that is extraordinary. That is a real success story for those teachers and those administrators.’ [Kelly Walsh Principal Brad] Diller attributed the successes to teacher training and innovative programs. In math, he said the school is in its second year of a new curriculum that focuses more heavily on problem solving and real-world application of concepts. ... The school also has offered in-service training for teachers to improve the writing curriculum. Teachers in all subjects focus more on writing...and language arts teachers have been working to be more consistent in the grades and feedback they give students on their written work.” (*Casper Star-Tribune*, 5/4/05)
- “The Wyoming Department of Education and Wyoming Public Television...recently wrapped up a two-year partnership that used half-hour TV programs to explain the No Child Left Behind law and how it would affect Wyoming’s schools. ‘Grade A: No Child Left Behind in Wyoming’ aired 14 installments during the 2003-04 school year. Another 14 aired during the 2004-05 school year. The last new show was broadcast in May. ... Each installment was watched in about 5,000 to 6,000 households. ... State schools superintendent Trent Blankenship said he wanted to reach out to Wyoming residents to explain the policy. In sparsely populated Wyoming, which has about 85,000 K-12 students spread over nearly 98,000 square miles, districts found it hard to learn best practices from one another.” (*Education Week*, 6/8/05)