

NCLB Making a Difference in Tennessee



- Between 2003 and 2004 (latest data available):
 - K-8 reading and mathematics proficiency increased by three percentage points
 - The black-white achievement gap in K-8 mathematics narrowed by four percentage points
 - The Hispanic-white achievement gap in K-8 reading narrowed by three percentage points
 - The Hispanic-white achievement gap in K-8 mathematics narrowed by three percentage points

(*Tennessee Report Card*)
- “Hamilton County School Board Chairman Chip Baker and Superintendent Jesse Register have issued a brief year-end summation that certainly deserves consideration by all good residents. In brief, they report: academic achievement continued to trend upward for the third year, as measured by state tests; the number of schools meeting all No Child Left Behind requirements increased from 40 to 53; and Chattanooga is the only mid-size city in our country that can claim major achievement initiatives by multi-million dollar private investments at all levels – elementary, middle and high school. ‘These kinds of achievements,’ Mr. Baker and Dr. Register emphasized, ‘do not occur overnight and are the result of years of work by teachers and school leadership teams.’” (*Chattanooga Times Free Press*, 5/28/05)
- “Metro [Nashville’s] school-level achievement results released Tuesday show double-digit gains in many schools, including some of the city’s most challenged. Principals and parents have been calling non-stop since Metro released positive district test scores last week to find out how their individual schools fared. ... Fifty-two Metro schools increased 10 percent or more in reading, while schools like Bellshire, Glengarry, and Warner increased by 24 percent or more. Madison, a K-12 school for students receiving special education services, had six times the percentage of students testing proficient in science and tripled the percentage proficient in reading. ... District leaders are excited about gains made by lower socio-economic schools, some of which outperformed their higher socio-economic peers. Bordeaux Enhanced Option, for example, has 87 percent of students economically disadvantaged and posted more than 20 percent gains in science and social studies. Kirkpatrick Enhanced Option, with 96 percent of students economically disadvantaged, increased 17 percent in reading and math, 19.3 percent in science, and 20 percent in social studies.” (*Nashville City Paper*, 6/29/05)
- “Good news, indeed, for the Smithson-Craighead Academy in the latest TCAP scores. Nashville’s first charter school had struggled the first year, and some were predicting its demise. But the latest scores show that the hard-working teachers and administrators at Smithson-Craighead are making a difference and their approach to teaching at-risk children is working. The school was chartered to help children who had been in low-performing schools. The first year was rocky, with test scores not showing that the school was making a tremendous difference. ... This year Smithson-Craighead’s success is clear. The scores show that the percentage of students testing proficient jumped 28 percent in reading, 24 percent in math, 19.7 percent in science, and 20 percent in social studies.” (*Nashville City Paper*, 7/5/05)