



NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND



How *No Child Left Behind* Benefits American Indians

In the past, many American Indian and Alaska Native students were shortchanged by the education system.

- Prior to the passage of the *No Child Left Behind Act*, the U.S. did not track the achievement gap between American Indian / Alaska Native students and their peers.
- Today, only about one in six American Indian and Alaska Native 8th-graders is proficient in reading and one in seven is proficient in math, according to the 2005 Nation's Report Card.

The bipartisan *No Child Left Behind* law is making sure schools are held accountable for the academic progress of every child.

- Closing the achievement gap is now a national priority, with schools held accountable for the achievement of all American Indian and Alaska Native students.
- Their parents are given regular updates on the academic progress of their children and schools.
- Those with children in public schools (about 90 percent) are offered new options and choices, such as free tutoring, if the school regularly underperforms.
- School officials must develop a plan with families, tribal leaders, teachers, and others to turn around underperforming schools.
- The Bureau of Indian Affairs has its own accountability plan in place to ensure that its schools leave no child behind.

No Child Left Behind is working.

- The 2005 Nation's Report Card Long-Term Trend report found steady academic growth and gains nationwide, particularly among younger and minority students.
- Reading scores for nine-year-olds improved more over the last five years than in the previous 30.
- Math scores for American Indian and Alaska Native 4th-graders rose a significant 3 points since 2003, and reading scores are also trending upwards, according to the Nation's Report Card State-by-State results.

President Bush and Secretary Spellings are working to ensure that *No Child Left Behind* meets the needs of American Indian and Alaska Native citizens.

- In 2004, President Bush signed an Executive Order recognizing the "unique educational and culturally related academic needs of American Indian and Alaska Native students."
- The Executive Order pledged to meet *No Child Left Behind's* high standards "in a manner that is consistent with tribal traditions, languages and cultures."
- U.S. Education Secretary Margaret Spellings is working with tribal leaders to implement the law in a sensible and workable way.
- In April 2005, the Department's Office of Indian Education hosted a national conference on Indian education with more than 600 national, state and tribal leaders and experts.

President Bush and Congress have provided historic levels of education funding.

- Support for America's neediest students has risen by more than 45 percent.
- Total funding under *No Child Left Behind* to benefit American Indian and Alaska Native students has increased 43 percent to more than \$300 million.
- Title I Bureau of Indian Affairs funding to help low-income students has grown by more than 60 percent to more than \$91 million, including a \$30 million multi-year Reading First grant to improve literacy.
- Grants have been awarded to professionally develop hundreds of Indian teachers and administrators.

Call 1(800) 872-5327 or visit www.nclb.gov for more information on *No Child Left Behind*.