

NCLB Making a Difference in New Hampshire



- Between 2002 and 2004 (latest data available):
 - Third-grade mathematics proficiency increased by four percentage points
 - The black-white achievement gap in third-grade mathematics narrowed by five percentage points
 - The poor-not poor achievement gap in third-grade mathematics narrowed by three percentage points
(*Education Trust*)
- “Concord School District’s Superintendent Dr. Christine Rath said she can think of several factors that may be making a difference in the 10th-grade NHEIAP [New Hampshire Educational Improvement and Assessment Program] results at Concord High School, which increased from 75 to 86 percent in students scoring basic or above in reading, and also went up in math, from 75 to 79 percent basic or above. Rath said students who are currently in high school were introduced to a new math program initiated when they were in the third- and fourth- grades, which places a greater emphasis on problem-solving skills and understanding mathematical language. ... In reading, Rath believes a combination of many tools, including a district-wide literacy initiative implemented in every school over the past four years, has had an impact in moving 10th-grade students from the novice category into higher levels. The 2004 results show the amount of Concord High School students scoring novice dropped by almost half, down from 24 percent last year to 13 percent this year, and the number of students in the basic category increased from 27 to 40 percent.” (www.ed.state.nh.us, 2004)
- “Barbara Szabunka, the 2005 Elementary School Principal of the Year, has been an educational leader focused on student achievement for more than 13 years. She is the instructional leader at Horne Street School in Dover that meets No Child Left Behind highly qualified status and is a truly family oriented educational institution. One of Barbara’s greatest achievements was in asking difficult questions and demanding high levels of student achievement that far surpassed expectations. As a result, student reading scores climbed with the adoption of a new language arts and reading curriculum.... Under the leadership of Barbara Szabunka, the Horne Street School is a model community of teaching and learning that includes the faculty, children and parents. Parents often comment on the positive feeling they experience at the school.” (*Manchester Union Leader*, 6/5/05)
- “The Newfound Regional School District has begun several programs in recent years to improve literacy among elementary school students. Teachers evaluate children individually three times a year. The elementary schools recently hosted literacy nights where parents of kids in kindergarten through second-grade learned about ways to help their children in areas like word study, comprehension, and writing. Administrators and teachers are planning an elementary summer reading program.... Also, the district is reaching out to children who have not even enrolled there yet. It hosted an early childhood literacy day about a month ago. Families learned about nutrition, safety, and ways to encourage literacy. Kids heard readings and got a book to take home. Instead of the kindergarten screenings this May, children will go through the new ‘Kindergarten Connections’ program, where they will be tested more extensively than in the past and where parents learn about [truly] helping their kids learn to read.” (*Concord Monitor*, 5/23/05)