

NCLB Making a Difference in Washington



- Between 2002 and 2004 (latest data available):
 - Fourth-grade reading proficiency increased by nine percentage points
 - Fourth-grade mathematics proficiency increased by eight percentage points
 - The black-white achievement gap in fourth-grade reading narrowed by four percentage points
 - The Hispanic-white achievement gap in fourth-grade reading narrowed by three percentage points
(*Washington Report Card*)
- “The image of Bellevue as a haven for white, affluent families still lingers around Puget Sound. But the reality is that more than 60 languages are spoken in Bellevue’s schools. Nearly 18 percent of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch.... The district has consistently made national headlines for its rigor – with more than 80 percent of students now taking college-level courses before they graduate. There are [also] signs of progress for Latino students, who account for about eight percent of the district population. Nearly 60 percent of the Latino graduates last year took college-level courses. The number has shot up significantly in the past several years.” (*Seattle Times*, 5/26/05)
- “Elementary schools in Kennewick, Pasco and Richland are being rewarded financially for narrowing the achievement gap between minority and white students. State Superintendent Terry Bergeson on Friday announced \$736,000 in cash will be awarded to 55 schools and 12 districts that showed continuous academic improvement by minority students. ... ‘They are making important strides in closing the performance gap between white students and their minority peers, which is an essential focus of our work in public education,’ Bergeson said in announcing the awards. ... At Westgate, Principal Dorothy Fanning said her school has logged an improvement in the achievement gap since the 2001-02 school year. The school, which houses the district’s English as a Second Language program, has about 400 students. Minorities comprise 48 percent of the population, and Fanning said 50 percent speak a language other than English at home. ... The results have been significant. In 2001-02, 25 percent of Hispanic fourth-graders passed the WASL [Washington Assessment of Student Learning] while 34 percent of the overall population received passing marks. By 2003-04, 78.9 percent of Hispanics passed, while 70 percent of the overall population achieved as highly.” (*Tri-City Herald*, 6/20/05)
- “When Principal Gary Tubbs opened The New School in South Seattle three years ago, he expressed his wish for a successful school by coloring in one eye of a daruma doll, a Japanese good luck charm. Tubbs has since colored in the doll’s other eye to celebrate a dream realized: a school where students take charge of their own learning; where teachers talk openly and frequently about what’s working and what’s not; and where more than 88 percent of second-graders, most of them poor and minority, were reading at grade level this spring, up from 44 percent last fall. ... The New School, designed to be a small, pre-K-8 school, boasts class sizes of 17 students, a longer school year, home visits by school staff and a full-day pre-kindergarten program. Accommodating preschool through second-grade until this fall, when it adds third-grade, the school has a wait list. ... Teachers are expected to continuously evaluate students’ growth through class work, and each teacher assesses his or her students in December and March before second-graders take the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) in April. All the test results are used for improvement.” (*Seattle Times*, 7/5/05)