



NCLB Making a Difference in Alabama

- President Bush's 2006 budget proposal increases federal education funding for Alabama to \$1.8 billion – 53% more than when the President took office.
- President Bush's 2006 budget proposal increases Title I funding for Alabama to \$202.5 million – \$65.1 million over 2001 levels – to help Alabama's neediest children.
- President Bush's 2006 budget proposal increases special education state grant funding for Alabama to \$175.1 million – \$74.7 million over 2001 levels – so that all Alabama students, including those with disabilities, have the opportunity to reach their full academic potential.
- Alabama has received \$52.5 million in Reading First grants to help schools and districts improve children's reading achievement through scientifically proven methods of instruction since receiving its award in July 2002. In total, over six years, Alabama is set to receive approximately \$112.2 million in Reading First Funds.
- "Ten Mobile County elementary schools achieved some of the top reading scores in the state among high-poverty schools participating in the Alabama Reading First Initiative. Four of the schools even ranked in the top 10 statewide among all schools involved in Reading First....Sheila Mosley, coordinator of elementary education in Mobile County, said the 10 Reading First schools had low reading scores prior to implementing the program last fall. 'It does work,' Mosley said. 'The schools are motivated, because now they have a clear focus on what they need to do and where they need to take the children.'...Among the Reading First schools, Alba Elementary showed the most growth between fall and spring administrations of the test. Thirty percent of the students passed in the fall, while 77 percent passed in the spring. Lisa Williams, principal at Alba, credited Reading First with the improvement....Through Reading First, Williams said, 'we will assure that no child is left behind.'" (*Mobile Register*, 7/22/04)
- "The latest standardized test scores indicate that the achievement gap between black and white students may slowly be shrinking in Mobile County....'Yes, I'm pleased because we are closing the gap,' said Samantha Ingram, an assistant superintendent for the Mobile County Public School System. 'Am I fully pleased? No, because we haven't completely closed the gap.'...Ingram credits federal funding with helping the system improve classroom instruction at mostly poor and black schools. The system receives what is known as Title One funding in roughly half of its schools to buy computers and extra books, provide one-on-one reading instruction, after-school tutoring and training for teachers. 'We've taken those resources and targeted those gaps,' Ingram said." (*Mobile Register*, 9/2/04)
- "Clanton Elementary School is one of two schools in Chilton County receiving \$95,000 in federal grant money as part of a comprehensive school reform grant....'The faculty and staff are very excited to receive this grant and have the opportunity to pursue school reform,' said Principal Rebecca Threlkeld. 'It's awarded to schools that have shown a commitment to comprehensive school reform in reaching all students.' She said the school will target reading instruction with the funds provided by the grant. This will allow them to identify reading deficits in children and provide reading intervention for the deficits, she explained....'Clanton Elementary School is committed to improving reading performance and assuring all students are reading on grade level by the close of grade two,' Threlkeld said." (*Clanton Advertiser*, 12/16/04)