

# NCLB Making a Difference in Texas



- Between 2003 and 2005 (latest data available):
  - Fourth-grade reading proficiency increased by three percentage points
  - Fourth-grade mathematics proficiency increased by 11 percentage points
  - The black-white achievement gap in fourth-grade reading narrowed by four percentage points
  - The black-white achievement gap in fourth-grade mathematics narrowed by five percentage points
  - The Hispanic-white achievement gap in fourth-grade reading narrowed by four percentage points
  - The Hispanic-white achievement gap in fourth-grade mathematics narrowed by seven percentage points

(Texas Report Card)
- “More than 40 percent of the students in Texas public schools are Hispanic. ... About 80 percent of Hispanics passed the reading test this year, compared with about 60 percent in 2003 [increase of 20 points]. The percentage of Anglo students who passed this year was 93 percent, up from 85 percent in 2003 [increase of eight points].” (Houston Chronicle, 6/17/05)
- “Once mostly rural and white, the Aldine Independent School District is now mostly urban, Hispanic, and poor. Aldine has succeeded in moving Spanish-speaking students into English-speaking classes at an earlier age and assuring that regular and bilingual teachers teach the same lessons. Data also drive almost every decision the district makes. Administrators make extensive use of a data analysis program called Triand that allows them to break down test results and pinpoint weaknesses in the curriculum. ... Triand gives teachers and administrators detailed reports on the specific questions that students missed on state exams. At the classroom level, the reports show teachers which skills students need to review. When analyzed schoolwide or districtwide, patterns in the data show weaknesses in the curriculum and which schools need more resources.” (Dallas Morning News, 6/13/05)
- “Look at Julia Frazier Elementary School, which earned another coveted exemplary rating. Frazier consistently ranks among the elite of Texas elementary schools, even though it sits in one of Dallas’ poorest neighborhoods. If Frazier can succeed year after year, so can other schools. Learn from success. Frazier has benefited from an excellent preschool program, strong principals, stable teaching corps and devoted corporate support. Texas Instruments employees long have helped Frazier students develop their skills.” (Editorial, Dallas Morning News, 8/5/05)
- “The Thrall school district in Williamson County saw substantial improvement over last year, when 55 percent of fourth-graders passed math. As fifth-graders, 93 percent passed the test, said Denise Carter, principal of Thrall Elementary. She attributed the gains to intensive teacher training, student tutorial sessions and a sharper focus on students’ weak spots. ‘It was really knowing the kids, knowing what each kid needed and working to get them what they needed,’ Carter said. ‘The hard work shows.’” (Austin American-Statesman, 6/10/05)