



U.S. Representative • 9<sup>th</sup> CD, New York • Brooklyn-Queens

**ANTHONY D. WEINER**

Report

# **GOP CONVENTION PRIMER: EDUCATION**

*No Child Left Behind Underfunded by Bush*



Prepared by the Office of  
Congressman Anthony D. Weiner

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Executive Summary

Last November, Mayor Bloomberg said that the Republican National Convention would provide a "chance for New York City to show its gratitude to President Bush and Vice President Cheney for all they have done for New York City" (as quoted in the Daily News, 11/15/03.)

Over the next several weeks, Rep. Anthony Weiner (D-Queens & Brooklyn) will release a series of reports detailing exactly what the Bush Administration has-or more accurately, *hasn't--done* for New York City. This report focuses on education--specifically, the President's signature piece of legislation: the *No Child Left Behind Act*.

In January 2002, when President Bush signed the *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) into law, he promised to set higher standards for schools, teachers, and school administrators. These higher standards, in the form of new mandates, would hold schools accountable for providing a quality education to each and every student. And when this legislation became law, President Bush also promised to provide school districts with the funds necessary to ensure this new promise of a better education.

But President Bush has failed to live up to his promises. Just months after signing NCLB into law, President Bush submitted a budget to Congress, which underfunded the law by billions. Congress essentially enacted the President's budget request in fiscal 2004, and they are poised to do this same again this year. For example, Title I, the federal government's primary program for assisting low performing schools will be underfunded by \$7.2 billion under the 2005 Bush Budget, which means that over half of the schools that are eligible for these funds will receive smaller grants than they did last year.

What does this mean for New York? If the President's budget is enacted, New York City will receive billions less than it was promised in federal aid.

In particular, for fiscal years 2003 through 2005:

- New York City is receiving \$1.169 billion less than promised in Title I funding to assist disadvantaged students.
- New York City is receiving \$1.319 billion less than promised in funding to assist disabled students.
- New York City is receiving \$31 million less than promised in funding for better teachers.
- New York City is receiving \$21 million less than promised in funding for better educational technology.
- New York City is receiving \$18 million less than promised in funding for innovative learning.

In total, an analysis of these five key programs found a shortfall of more than

\$2.558 billion for the City over the past three years.

The Mayor's response to Bush's deplorable record? "I think he's a great President and I'm going to support him to the end" (as quoted in the New York Sun, 2/25/04.)

New York City's schools and students deserve much better from their City and National leadership.

### **Findings**

**In five key programs-Title 1, IDEA, Teacher Quality, Education Technology, Innovation--President Bush has shortchanged New York City by over \$2.5 billion dollars under the No Child Left Behind Act.**

#### **Improving Academic Achievement for Disadvantaged Children**

This program, otherwise known as Title I, Part A, provides money to high-poverty school districts based on the number of children receiving free or reduced-price lunch. This money is intended to target these low-income students so that they can receive the additional resources needed to help them perform at the same level as their peers. This money can be used for educational assistance in the form of additional instruction in areas such as Reading, Writing, English as a Second Language, and for support and guidance counselors.

	<b>Authorization (billions)</b>	<b>Appropriation (millions)</b>	<b>Shortfall (millions)</b>
<b>FY03</b>	\$1.027	\$750	\$277
<b>FY04</b>	\$1.213	\$809	\$404
<b>FY05</b>	\$1.398	\$910 (Bush request)	\$488
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3.638</b>	<b>\$2.469</b>	<b>\$1.169B</b>

#### **Individuals with Disabilities Act (Part B)**

This program provides special education and related services to children with disabilities. Activities supported by this program include training for teachers of students with disabilities and acquisition of assistive technology devices such as textbooks in Braille or wheelchair ramps.

	<b>Authorization (millions)</b>	<b>Appropriation (millions)</b>	<b>Shortfall (millions)</b>
<b>FY03</b>	\$796	\$341	\$456
<b>FY04</b>	\$819	\$382	\$437
<b>FY05</b>	\$842	\$416 (Bush request)	\$426
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2.457</b>	<b>\$1.139</b>	<b>\$1.319B</b>

#### **Improving Teacher Quality**

This program provides support for a wide variety of development and recruiting efforts. Professional development is provided to all school teachers, administrators, and other school personnel based on the educational needs of the school children they serve. Professional development can be in the areas of Math and Science; if funds are sufficient the program expands to all subject areas.

	Authorization (millions)	Appropriation (millions)	Shortfall (millions)
FY03	\$138	\$127	\$11
FY04	\$136	\$126	\$10
FY05	\$136	\$126 (Bush request)	\$10
Total	\$410	\$379	\$31

### **Education Technology**

This program supports activities to increase student achievement through the integration of technology into the curriculum, and to increase student and teacher access to technology, especially in low-income areas. Activities supported in this program include teacher training in the use of educational technology and the acquisition of hardware, software, and technology supporting access to the Internet.

	Authorization (millions)	Appropriation (millions)	Shortfall (millions)
FY03	\$23	\$16	\$7
FY04	\$23	\$16	\$7
FY05	\$23	\$16 (Bush request)	\$7
Total	\$69	\$48	\$21

### **State Grants for Innovative Programs**

This program provides supplementary educational materials, equipment and training that are part of innovative and creative efforts to improve our schools. Activities supported by this program include programs for educationally disadvantaged students, literacy programs for adults, acquisition of instructional and educational materials such as library materials or computer hardware or software, and for hiring and supporting school nurses and counselors.

	Authorization (millions)	Appropriation (millions)	Shortfall (millions)
FY03	\$17	\$14	\$3
FY04	\$17	\$10	\$7
FY05	\$18	\$10 (Bush request)	\$8
Total	\$52	\$34	\$18

### **Methodology:**

The figures presented in the 2003-2005 report card were compiled using data from the Bush FY04 - 05 budget, the House FY04 Labor-HHS-Education bill, and the

authorized program levels in the No Child Left Behind Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and New York Department of Education. Fiscal years 2003-2004 shortfall amounts are based on each respective year's authorization minus the actual appropriation. The fiscal year 2005 shortfall is based on authorization minus the Presidents 2005 budget request.

*This is the first in a series of reports Rep. Weiner will release in the run-up to the Republican National Convention detailing the Bush Administration's record when it comes to New York City.*

Congressman Anthony D. Weiner

## **Reports List**