

NCLB Making a Difference in District of Columbia



- Between 2004 and 2005 (latest available data):
 - Elementary reading proficiency increased by four percentage points
 - The black-white achievement gap in elementary reading narrowed by three percentage points
 - The Hispanic-white achievement gap in elementary reading narrowed by six percentage points
 - The Hispanic-white achievement gap in elementary mathematics narrowed by five percentage points
 - The poor-not poor achievement gap in elementary reading narrowed by five percentage points
 - The poor-not poor achievement gap in elementary mathematics narrowed by seven percentage points

(D.C. Report Card)
- "Elementary students in D.C. public schools continued to make progress in reading and math this year.... The results showed that 50.1 percent of elementary students...scored at the proficient level in reading and that 57.9 percent of elementary children...were rated proficient in math. ... The number of D.C. schools meeting their one-year academic benchmark increased this year from 63 to 72, according to the results." *(Washington Post, 8/8/05)*
- "The KIPP DC: KEY Academy, the first KIPP school in the Washington area, opened in 2000 and has 320 students in grades 5 through 8. It has the highest math scores in the city, though more than 80 percent of its students come from black families poor enough to qualify for federal lunch subsidies. ... KIPP students are in school at least nine hours a day, compared with fewer than seven hours in regular public schools. Three weeks of summer school are mandatory. Students are urged to call teachers at home if they have questions about homework. Those who do not complete homework are disciplined. Good work and behavior are rewarded with points toward items from the student store and school trips, from which students with few points are excluded. Teachers are trained to be very active in their classrooms, involving all children in lessons and taking points off from those who do not pay attention." *(Washington Post, 8/11/05)*
- "Nine months into the experiment, it is too early to know how the nation's first federally funded voucher program is affecting the academic achievement of the hundreds of D.C. children who won the private school scholarships. But spending time with the Hammonds provides a glimpse of the benefits...that the program entails for one family. Thanks to their federal vouchers, the four children are getting a free education at a school where annual tuition normally would cost \$4,500 for each of them – a total of \$18,000, which is more than [Nikia] Hammond's annual income. And Hammond is impressed by the differences between the Baptist-oriented Nannine Burroughs and the public school her children attended the previous year – smaller classes, more enthusiastic teachers and fewer discipline problems. ... Hammond said she is determined to take full advantage of the voucher program, no matter what the difficulties. 'I am just focusing on what I am doing it for, to pull myself up and to pull my children up,' she said." *(Washington Post, 5/30/05)*