

## President Bush's Continued Commitment to Education *2008 Budget Good News for Puerto Rico's Children*

The President's FY 2008 Education Budget builds on the progress of the last six years, focusing on reform and results. It will strengthen and help reauthorize the *No Child Left Behind Act*, prepare high school students for success through rigorous and advanced coursework and enable millions of young Americans to afford college. The \$56 billion Education Budget invests wisely on the priorities of our students, schools and taxpayers.

### Highlights of the President's FY 2008 Budget Proposal

- **More Resources for Schools**
  - **No Child Left Behind Act (\$24.5 billion)—up 41% since 2001**  
To promote high standards, accountability, and ensure that all students can read and do math at grade level or better by 2014.
  - **Title I Program (\$13.9 billion)—\$1.2 billion increase—up 59% since 2001**  
To help students in high-poverty schools make greater academic progress, closing the achievement gap with their peers. High schools will enjoy a significant funding increase, ensuring a fairer distribution of resources.
  - **Title I School Improvement Grants Program (\$500 million)**  
To help States restructure, restaff and reform chronically underperforming schools while aiding their students.
  - **American Competitiveness Initiative (\$365 million)**  
To increase rigor in our schools by strengthening math, science, and foreign language instruction.
- **More Resources for Parents**
  - **Promise Scholarships (\$250 million) and Opportunity Scholarships (\$50 million)**  
Scholarships will provide low-income students trapped in troubled schools greater options such as intensive tutoring or attending another public, charter or private school of their choice.
- **More Resources for Teachers to Close the Achievement Gap**
  - **Reading First and Early Reading First Programs (\$1.1 billion) and Striving Readers (\$100 million)**  
To strengthen and expand Reading First, helping more than 1.8 million students learn to read by grade three through proven instructional methods. Striving Readers provides targeted, intensive instruction to get struggling students in grades 6-12 back on track.
- **More Resources for Higher Education**
  - **Pell Grant Program (\$15.4 billion)—up 76% since 2001**  
To increase the maximum Pell Grant award by \$550 to \$4,600, the largest growth in three decades, benefiting 5.5 million recipients. An additional 1.1 million students have received Pell Grants since 2001.

### **How the President's 2008 Budget Will Help Puerto Rico's Children and Families**

- Increases federal education funding in Puerto Rico to \$2 billion— 53.40% more since the President took office.
- Provides \$746.1 million to help Puerto Rico implement the reforms of *No Child Left Behind*.
- Increases Title I funding to \$536.5 million—\$262.1 million over 2001 levels—to help Puerto Rico's neediest children.
- Increases Special Education Grants for Puerto Rico to \$106.4 million—\$40.8 million over 2001 levels.
- Provides \$699.2 million in Federal Pell Grants to help ensure a college education for Puerto Rico students who otherwise might not be able to afford one.
- Provides Puerto Rico with \$347.4 million in funding for new Federal Student Loans that ensure greater access to a college education for more young people.
- Provides access to \$35.6 million in Reading First funding to ensure that every child in Puerto Rico learns to read by the third grade.
- Provides \$88.3 million to attract and retain highly qualified teachers in Puerto Rico's classrooms.
- Provides \$6.4 million for annual assessments so every mom and dad in Puerto Rico will know how well their children are learning and where they need improvement.
- Provides \$3.1 million to support students in Puerto Rico who are learning the English language.

*Source: U.S. Department of Education Budget Service. All dollar amounts are estimates as of 2/2/07.  
For more information about the No Child Left Behind Act, please visit [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov).*