

## President Bush's Continued Commitment to Education *2009 Budget Good News for Arkansas' Children*

The President's FY 2009 Education Budget builds on his legacy of successful education reform by supporting programs and policies that produces results for both students and taxpayers. The focus remains on strengthening the *No Child Left Behind Act* so that all students will perform on grade-level or above by 2014, challenging high school students with rigorous coursework, closing the achievement gap, and making college more affordable.

### Highlights of the President's FY 2009 Budget Proposal

- **More Resources for Schools**
  - **No Child Left Behind Act (\$24.5 billion)—up 41% since 2001**  
To promote high standards and accountability, and to ensure that all students can read and do math at grade level or better by 2014.
  - **Title I Program (\$14.3 billion)—\$406 million increase—up 63% since 2001**  
To ensure that high-poverty schools have the extra resources they need to help all students reach proficiency.
  - **Title I School Improvement Grants Program (\$491 million)**  
To support strong, effective state leadership in helping turn around low-performing schools and districts.
  - **Teacher Incentive Fund (\$200 million)**  
To encourage our most experienced teachers to work in our neediest schools, and reward them for results.
- **More Resources for Parents**
  - **Pell Grants for Kids Program (\$300 million)**  
To provide scholarships that enable low-income students who are currently enrolled in schools in restructuring or high school "dropout factories" to transfer to out-of-district public schools or local private schools.
- **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 restore funding to its previous level for the Reading First program, which provides training for teachers based on decades of scientifically based research. Striving Readers provides targeted, intensive instruction to help struggling teenage students who are reading below grade level.
- **Making College More Affordable**
  - **Pell Grant Program (\$18.9 billion)—up 116% since 2001**  
To increase the maximum Pell Grant award to \$4,800—its largest annual amount ever—benefiting a projected 5.8 million recipients. A projected 1.5 million additional students will have received Pell Grants since 2001.

### **How the President's 2009 Budget Will Help Arkansas' Children and Families**

- Increases federal education funding in Arkansas to \$1.1 billion— 80% more since the President took office.
- Provides \$225.2 million to help Arkansas implement the reforms of *No Child Left Behind*.
- Increases Title I funding to \$150.2 million—\$64.7 million over 2001 levels—to help Arkansas' neediest children.
- Increases Special Education Grants for Arkansas to \$118.7 million—\$50 million over 2001 levels.
- Provides \$209.5 million in Federal Pell Grants to help ensure a college education for Arkansas students who otherwise might not be able to afford one.
- Provides Arkansas students with \$510.2 million in funding for new Federal Student Loans that ensure greater access to a college education for more young people.
- Provides access to \$11.3 million in Reading First funding to ensure that every child in Arkansas learns to read by the third grade.
- Provides \$27.6 million to attract and retain highly qualified teachers in Arkansas' classrooms.
- Provides \$5.2 million for annual assessments so every mom and dad in Arkansas will know how well their children are learning and where they need improvement, and also so that taxpayers can see how productively their money is being spent.
- Provides \$3 million to support students in Arkansas who are learning the English language

*Source: U.S. Department of Education Budget Service. All dollar amounts are estimates as of 2/11/08.  
For more information about the No Child Left Behind Act, please visit [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov).*