

July 21, 2005

MEMORANDUM TO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EMPLOYEES

SUBJECT: 2005 Report on Agency Results

It is with great pride that the U.S. Department of Education today releases its 2005 Report to Employees on Agency Results. I am proud to say that there is a lot of good news in the report, and it is thanks to your hard work. I encourage you to take time to read today's release, which can be found on ED's website at <http://www.ed.gov/about/reports/annual/results2005/index.html>.

Although ED is the smallest Cabinet-level agency, we are still getting big results. We've kept President Bush's commitment to citizen-centered, customer-focused government. And we have not forgotten who those customers are: the nation's students.

The report shows that we are meeting our twin challenges of improving academic achievement for all students while also closing the achievement gap. In fact, America's 9-year-olds have posted the best reading and math scores in the history of the nation's long-term Report Card, with African American and Hispanic students improving the most since 1999. We are seeing what high standards and accountability, prompted by the landmark *No Child Left Behind Act*, can accomplish. You all have been part of that history.

The report shows that we are working to ensure that our public schools are the very best they can be. We've given states a new, common-sense approach to implementing NCLB and new tools to meet the academic needs of students with disabilities. And we've nearly doubled Title I aid for schools deemed "in need of improvement." Our *What Works Clearinghouse* has begun publishing middle school math curricula research to help educators use proven instructional methods. And we've created a new Center for Special Education Research to put special education research on the same sound footing as our other research activities.

Finally, we are working to get the best out of our Department. New technologies, streamlined processes and reduced paperwork have helped us deliver services faster and more efficiently. A focus on fiscal integrity in our Federal Student Aid office has resulted in three straight "clean" audits and customer-satisfaction ratings that rank with top businesses.

As many of you know, we have recently reorganized our Department to meet the challenges that lie ahead. As we continue our work, I would like to personally thank our many dedicated employees. You've gotten the most out of our resources, and we're clearly getting the best out of you. This report is a reflection of your good work.

Margaret Spellings