

# NCLB Making a Difference in Florida



- Between 2002 and 2005 (latest available data):
  - Fourth-grade reading proficiency increased by 16 percentage points
  - Fifth-grade mathematics proficiency increased by nine percentage points
  - The black-white achievement gap in fourth-grade reading narrowed by six percentage points
  - The Hispanic-white achievement gap in fourth-grade reading narrowed by six percentage points

(Florida Report Card)
- “Jamie and Marc Newberry could ride their bikes to school. Instead, they took a 30-minute bus ride across town to a better school, Pelican Marsh Elementary. ‘I feel my kids are getting a much better education,’ said their mother, Michele Newberry. Her children were among the 400 this school year who transferred to a better-performing school, thanks to the federal No Child Left Behind Act. ... In Immokalee, the federal No Child Left Behind law has helped many. Last month, Immokalee High students received tutoring from Enterprise Company officials...who oversaw a new computer home-tutoring program. Each teen received a computer with tutorial programs and access to ‘virtual classrooms,’ where students could ask questions in ‘real time’ with a teacher via chat rooms. ... ‘I think NCLB is a wonderful thing because it forces everybody to look at those subgroups, and it was easy for them to get lost before,’ [district coordinator Dale] Johnson said. ... For the Newberry family, the law allows more educational freedom. ‘They were both very good students but now they’re more challenged and above grade level,’ Newberry said about her [kids].” (Naples Daily News, 6/6/05)
- “Since Mollie Ray [Elementary] made headlines in 2002 for receiving its second failing grade in four years, the Pine Hills school and its staff have done many of the right things to improve student achievement. For example, parents were expected to read to their children for 20 minutes each night and sign off in the morning verifying homework assignments had been finished and free tutoring was provided before and after school for struggling students. Ninety-nine percent of Mollie Ray’s students are poor – but it seized an A on the state’s annual report card.” (Orlando Sentinel, 6/13/05)
- “In the first years of the charter district, Volusia [County’s] schools weren’t much different from years before. ... Then [Woodward Elementary principal] Joanne Rodkey read an article about teachers volunteering to teach an extra hour a day because they couldn’t cover their subjects... . So she asked [teachers] if they would be willing to spend one more hour every day to teach math, science, reading and writing. They said ‘yes.’ Then parents said ‘yes.’ Then the school board said ‘yes.’ Seven teachers at Woodward started the longer day in the middle of the 2002 school year. Next year, every student at Burns-Oak Hill and Westside elementaries will attend school for the extra hour. Some 155 teachers at nine schools will participate. Teachers and principals have since started over, developing creative solutions to help students boost their academic achievement. ... Students who were taught the extra hour (that equals an additional 40 school days) scored better on standardized tests than other children.” (Daytona Beach News-Journal, 6/6/05)