

# NCLB Making a Difference in Missouri

- Between 2002 and 2004 (latest data available), the black-white achievement gap in third-grade math narrowed by six percentage points. (*Education Trust*)
- “Younger students saw the biggest academic gains in the first year of West Boulevard Elementary School’s transformation into a model school, Principal Vickie Robb told the Columbia Board of Education last night. ... Second- and third-graders got more reading and literacy help, including small group work and time using a computer program for language development. Robb plans to offer more help for fourth- and fifth-graders next year. ... In fall 2004, no students in kindergarten through second-grade earned top scores on writing assessments. By spring, nearly 50 percent of kindergartners, 20 percent of first-graders and more than 10 percent of second-graders scored in the highest categories. A standardized reading test showed that 76 percent of first-graders were reading at grade level this spring, compared with 37 percent last fall. Seventy-five percent of third-graders who were below grade level made a full year’s gain in reading skills.” (*Columbia Daily Tribune*, 6/15/05)
- “Bel-Ridge Elementary School is among 12 schools statewide recognized by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education as a ‘Gold Star’ School. ... Gold Star Schools meet the same criteria as the No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon schools. ... Bel-Ridge students have consistently exceeded the state goals of the number of students scoring in the top two levels of the MAP, which determines AYP status. During the 2002 school year, the goal was set at 8.3%, and Bel-Ridge achieved 12.5%; in 2003, the state’s goal was 9.3%, and Bel-Ridge achieved 23.1%; in 2004, the state’s goal was 10.3%, and Bel-Ridge achieved 53.1%.” (*Normandy School District Advocate*, Spring 2005)
- “The [St. Louis Public Schools] has made some headway at the elementary level, where the percentage of third-graders testing proficient or advanced in communication arts has more than doubled over the past five years. The same is true for fourth-grade math scores. The biggest boosts in both categories came last year. Thirty-nine of the district’s 56 elementary schools met the state’s academic progress goals last year, up from just 22 the year before.” (*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 3/6/05)

