

# NCLB Making a Difference in Mississippi



- Between 2002 and 2004 (latest data available):
  - Fourth-grade reading proficiency increased by four percentage points
  - Fourth-grade mathematics proficiency increased by eight percentage points
  - The black-white achievement gap in fourth-grade reading narrowed by five percentage points
  - The black-white achievement gap in fourth-grade mathematics narrowed by eight percentage points
  - The Hispanic-white achievement gap in fourth-grade mathematics narrowed by three percentage points
  - The poor-not poor achievement gap in fourth-grade mathematics narrowed by three percentage points  
(*Education Trust*)
- “[Oak Grove High School] was recognized during the Mississippi Department of Education meeting in Jackson for being one of only four schools in the state and less than 300 schools nationwide named as a No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School. Oak Grove schools also have the unique distinction of being the only school system in the state and one of only a handful nationwide to earn the title all three years since the program began, according to principal Wayne Folkes.... Folkes said Oak Grove earned the award because of its high test scores in recent years. ‘In English, math, social studies and science, our test scores have been in the top 5 percent of the state on a continuous basis and that says a lot for what teachers are doing in the classrooms,’ Folkes said.” (*Hattiesburg American*, 2/19/05)
- “A group of Jackson parents who received training to be effective leaders is putting the finishing touches on projects to improve their children’s schools. Jackson Parents for Public Schools created the parent institute, which began training parents in August over three two-day sessions.... For his project, Don Purvis, whose daughter is a first-grader at Walton Elementary, is formalizing work he already was doing. Purvis is organizing Walton Elementary dads into tutors and mentors for any child who needs an adult, but particularly boys, at the 600-student school. His goal is to improve school test scores not just by remediating, but by addressing other issues children may have that teachers may not be able to address.... ‘You may be able to reach a kid one way that you can’t another,’ he said. ‘We’ll come in and do whatever is necessary to keep the kids actively involved in the education process.’” (*Jackson Clarion-Ledger*, 1/3/05)
- “Students at Northwest Rankin Middle School are getting a little help from new friends who not only have good listening ears but a knack for giving solid advice. Adult mentors are part of a new project this spring from DREAM Inc., which stands for Developing Resources for Education in America. The Pearl-based non-profit group promotes healthy lifestyles and quality of life through education. DREAM is seeking volunteers to donate one hour a week to serve as mentors to about 100 students at Northwest Rankin Middle as part of the Transitions Mentoring Project. The three-year program is funded by more than \$500,000 in grant money from the U.S. Department of Education. Adult mentors are needed to help students get through the turbulent years of adolescence.” (*Jackson Clarion-Ledger*, 3/28/05)