

NCLB Making a Difference in Ohio



- Between 2002 and 2005 (latest data available):
 - Fourth-grade reading proficiency increased by 21 percentage points
 - Fourth-grade mathematics proficiency increased by six percentage points
 - The black-white achievement gap in fourth-grade reading narrowed by eight percentage points
 - The black-white achievement gap in fourth-grade mathematics narrowed by 10 percentage points
 - The Hispanic-white achievement gap in fourth-grade reading narrowed by four percentage points
 - The Hispanic-white achievement gap in fourth-grade mathematics narrowed by four percentage points

(Ohio Report Card)
- “Reading Central Community Elementary is so academically successful that the state is paying researchers to study how they do it.... More than half the students qualify for free or low-price lunches. Many come from homes without computers or phones. Yet the school has achieved a statewide Excellent rating. This school and 12 others in Greater Cincinnati are among 102 rated by the Ohio Department of Education as Schools of Promise. They’re known for their successes in closing the achievement gap among students from various socioeconomic, racial and ethnic backgrounds.... ‘It’s clear to us that achievement is possible, regardless of where you live, the color of your skin or the size of your parents’ bank account,’ said Mitch Chester, assistant state schools superintendent.... Connie Garafalo, principal at Reading Central Community Elementary, recalled decades ago when teachers went only by their gut instincts that a student wasn’t learning. ‘Unfortunately, that’s kind of why we’re in the situation that we are in now with accountability. Show me on paper. We’ve got teachers now making graphs, graphing students, progress monitoring. It’s awesome to see. Everybody’s doing this,’ she told a group of visiting educators.” *(Cincinnati Enquirer, 5/16/05)*
- “At Gilbert A. Dater High School, a Cincinnati Public School with a 47 percent disadvantaged population, the school’s graduation rate last year was 92 percent, in a district where the graduation rate is 72 percent. More than 90 percent of Dater seniors went on to college last year.... ‘We really are kind of a throwback to the 1950s,’ principal Beverly Eby said. ‘We are truly a high school that people remember what a high school should be, where everybody knows everybody, where a principal actually knows who you are and goes to your events. We set up mission statements that weren’t just words. ... We have no throwaway kids here. That’s the important thing. It’s really one of the biggest things that’s made us successful. All staff people, not just teachers, have a vested interest, from the custodians to the secretaries.’” *(Cincinnati Enquirer, 5/16/05)*
- “Over 100 Wood County students are taking part in the first phase of a pilot program that gives youngsters with difficulties in reading or mathematics the opportunity to improve their skills through live, online tutoring sessions. Those who complete the 40 one-hour lessons get to keep the new computer. Nationwide, three agencies were selected to participate in the five-year, \$5.3 million project funded by the federal Department of Education.” *(Toledo Blade, 6/2/05)*