

NCLB Making a Difference in South Carolina

- Between 2003 and 2004 (latest data available), fourth-grade reading proficiency increased by six percentage points. (*South Carolina Report Card*)
- “Hundreds of hours of after-school tutoring sessions, parent-teacher meetings and monitoring students’ progress have paid off for Charleston County’s Orange Grove Elementary School. The West Ashley school, along with 131 others across the state, has reduced the academic achievement gap between its white students and at least one of its historically under-achieving groups, which include blacks, Hispanics and students who receive free or reduced lunches, according to a study released Friday. ... Orange Grove’s black students, about 60 percent of the school’s population, scored at a higher level than a majority of students statewide on the math portion of the 2004 Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test. It’s the third consecutive year the school has been recognized for some of its students’ high achievement.” (*Charleston Post and Courier*, 6/11/05)
- “The S.C. Education Oversight Committee will recognize five York County schools on Monday as being among the state’s best for improving 2004 test scores in at least one disadvantaged demographic group. In Rock Hill, Rosewood Elementary, and in Clover, Bethany, Bethel and Griggs Road elementary schools and Crowders Creek Elementary and Middle School, were singled out for ‘reducing the achievement gap.’ Out of 833 elementary and middle schools looked at statewide, 132 will be recognized for improving scores for black children and those living in poverty on the 2004 English/language arts and math sections of the PACT test, a standardized test given each spring to S.C. students in grades three through eight. ... In 2004, Bethany’s students on free and reduced lunch tested in the top 25 percent of children achieving the highest level – proficient and advanced – in English/language arts across the state. Bethel and Griggs Road students on assisted lunch did the same in math, while black students at Crowders Creek scored in the top 25 percent of those achieving basic and above levels in math across the state.” (*Rock Hill Herald*, 6/11/05)
- “The federal Department of Education cited Greenville Technical College’s Charter High School as one of the top 15 charter schools among the nation’s more than 3,300.... Officials signed out the program that allows students to take college-level courses for credit while still in high school. Some will receive high school diplomas and college associate degrees concurrently.... All tenth-graders passed the standardized language arts test, and the school had the second best math scores in South Carolina, trailing only a Charleston magnet school.” (*Greenville News*, 5/6/05)

