

NCLB Making a Difference in North Carolina



- Between 2002 and 2004 (latest data available):
 - Fourth-grade reading proficiency increased by six percentage points
 - Fourth-grade mathematics proficiency increased by four percentage points
 - The black-white achievement gap in fourth-grade reading narrowed by seven percentage points
 - The state's poor-not poor achievement gap in fourth-grade reading narrowed by four 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 state's poor-not poor achievement gap in fourth-grade mathematics narrowed by seven percentage points
(*Education Trust*)
- “Irving [Elementary School] was one of two schools in North Carolina to be recognized nationally as a ‘Title I Distinguished School’ by the National Association of State Title I Directors. ... The other N.C. school, Rutherford College Elementary in Burke County, was recognized for overall student achievement. ... Irvin, with 55 percent of its students getting free or reduced-price lunches, seems to be doing something right, based on the numbers. In third-grade reading, the percentage of Hispanic children at or above grade level improved from 12.5 percent two years ago to 63.2 percent in 2004. In third-grade math, the percentage increased from 25 percent to nearly 79 percent in 2004.” (*Charlotte Observer*, 12/9/04)
- “The fourth-grade scores in Brunswick County made the most significant gains this year. The percentage of fourth-grade students who made proficient scores increased from 34.2 percent to 45.4 percent this year. The school district has made a concerted effort to place more reading and writing specialists in its elementary schools this year with its federal Title I funding, as part of the No Child Left Behind Act. At the seventh-grade level, 44.9 percent of Brunswick County students made proficient scores this year, compared with 41.1 percent last year.... ‘Writing is an essential skill for success,’ State Board of Education Chairman Howard Lee said in a news release. ‘North Carolina students and teachers are making progress in this key area, and we expect that a positive trend line will continue for our students in future years.’” (*Myrtle Beach Sun News*, 6/18/05)
- “Amid [the] national criticism of the No Child Left Behind Act, Rockingham County School leaders present and future say the federal legislation has had a positive effect on boosting student test scores.... During [NCLB’s] three-year span, Rockingham County Schools has seen an overall jump in the percentage of its students who test at grade level. The achievement gap between black and white students has narrowed and the district’s four-year graduation rate has increased from 58 percent to 67 percent. District superintendent Walter Bromenschenkel said he credits those academic improvements in large part to the accountability measures the No Child Left Behind Act has imposed on all classrooms.... ‘We have embraced that initiative,’ he said. ‘It’s not about reducing local and state controls on education. It’s about forcing schools to be more attentive to the product for which they’re charged, and that’s quality education.’” (*Eden Daily News Online*, 5/22/05)