

# NCLB Making a Difference in New York



- Between 2002 and 2004 (latest data available):
  - Fourth-grade mathematics achievement increased by 11 percentage points
  - The black-white achievement gap in fourth-grade reading narrowed by three percentage points
  - The Hispanic-white achievement gap in fourth-grade reading narrowed by five percentage points
  - The black-white achievement gap in fourth-grade mathematics narrowed by 10 percentage points
  - The Hispanic-white achievement gap in fourth-grade mathematics narrowed by 10 percentage points  
(*Education Trust*)
- “The number of fourth-graders reading and writing at grade level in New York State surged this year, propelled by striking gains in four large urban districts – including New York City’s. Among the big districts, Rochester had the largest increase, up 14.9 points. Syracuse gained 12 points. Yonkers was up 11.4 points. Statewide, 70.4 percent of fourth-graders met standards, an increase of 8.2 points.” (*New York Times*, 5/19/05)
- “Citywide, the gains on this year’s standardized reading and math tests were so outsized – particularly among fifth graders, who improved 19.5 percentage points in reading and 15.2 percentage points in math – that they left some education experts...skeptical.... But in interviews at P.S. 45 and other schools across the city with large increases in test scores, principals, teachers, parents, and students offered this most basic explanation: they worked hard. Even at these schools, educators and parents said the changes of the past three years had been tumultuous. But they also said the efforts had begun to ‘pay off.’ Principals and teachers described a relentless focus on literacy and math and a ceaseless scrutinizing of tests, quizzes, and writing samples to understand which skills the students had mastered and which lessons had somehow fallen short.” (*New York Times*, 6/13/05)
- “For decades, District 9, a roughly two-square-mile area just north of Yankee Stadium, was a tale of woe common to many places in the city – only more woeful. The local school board had a history of corruption stretching back to the 1970’s. In 1988, an elementary school principal was arrested and charged with possessing cocaine. In 1991, a school board vice president was charged with threatening staff members with a gun. And, for many years, the reading scores were the worst in the city. Six years ago, when New York State introduced a new reading and writing exam, only 17.1 percent of District 9’s fourth graders scored at grade level. Now, District 9 is once again focused on the number 17.1, but for a different reason – it represents the district’s outsized percentage point gain in fourth-grade reading scores. That jump brought the number at grade level to 47.6 percent, still low but hardly last.” (*New York Times*, 5/20/05)
- “Four elementary schools in Rochester were named Thursday to the state’s list of those that showed the most academic improvement during 2004-05 testing. ... School 33, the one with the highest poverty rate [96%], has seen continuous improvement on the English/Language Arts test for six straight years. This year, 81 percent of the fourth-graders passed, up 10 percentage points from the year before and up 62 points since 1999.” (*Rochester Democrat & Chronicle*, 6/1/05)