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NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND'S 5TH ANNIVERSARY

Keeping Promises And Achieving Results

January 2007

"Not once in my travels around the country have I met a parent who didn't want their child learning on grade level."
-- Secretary Margaret Spellings

Five years ago, the *No Child Left Behind Act* promised a New Era in American education....

- All students reading and doing math at grade level by 2014
- Higher expectations for every student and greater accountability for every school
- Annual assessments and disaggregated data to observe progress
- Highly qualified teachers in every classroom
- Timely information and options for parents
- The freedom and flexibility to invest in what works

...and it is Working.

- All 50 states and the District of Columbia have accountability plans in place
- All 50 states and D.C. assess students in grades 3-8 and once in high school in reading / language arts and mathematics
- The percentage of classes taught by a highly qualified teacher has risen to over 90 percent
- Nearly 450,000 eligible students have received free supplemental educational services (tutoring) or public school choice

The decades-old "achievement gap" is finally beginning to Close....

According to the Nation's Report Card, from 1999 to 2004 the gap between:

- African-American and white 9-year-olds in reading narrowed by 9 points (to an all-time low).
- African-American and white 9-year-olds in math narrowed by 5 points (to an all-time low).
- Hispanic and white 9-year-olds in math narrowed by 8 points (to an all-time low).
- Hispanic and white 9-year-olds in reading narrowed by 7 points (to an all-time low).

...while student achievement is on the Rise.

- More reading progress was made by 9-year-olds in five years than in the previous 28 years combined
- Reading and math scores for 9-year-olds and fourth-graders have reached all-time highs
- Between 2003 and 2005 an additional 235,000 fourth-graders learned their fundamental math skills
- Forty-six states and D.C. improved or held steady in all categories of students tested in reading and math

Under *NCLB*, the future is Brighter for every student.

Moving forward, we propose to strengthen and expand the No Child Left Behind Act by:

- **Measuring individual student progress** and focusing interventions on students who have yet to reach grade level.
- **Challenging our students and preparing them to succeed in the global economy** by establishing more rigorous and advanced coursework in our nation's high schools.
- **Helping teachers close the achievement gap** by providing incentives for the best teachers to serve in the most challenging schools.
- **Providing real incentives for reform and empowering parents** by offering students the option to attend high-performing schools and receive afterschool tutoring.
- **Holding firm to the 2014 deadline** for all students to read and do math at grade level or better.

** Sources: 2004 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Long-Term Trends in Academic Progress; 2005 Nation's Report Card (NAEP); National Assessment of Title I Interim Report*