

## **No Child Left Behind Fact Sheet**

In 2001 Congress passed NCLB under the promise of improving education.

**The goal:** 100% test proficiency by 2014

**The means:** State standardized tests and school sanctions

### **NCLB costs:**

- The national burden for meeting the NCLB reporting requirements is estimated at \$135,000,000.<sup>i</sup>  
Current federal aid to education is only 7.4 percent of total spending<sup>ii</sup>
- In January 2004, Ohio **announced** the results of an analysis of NCLB's financial impact on the state. The study concluded that the state will have to spend \$1.447 billion dollars more annually to implement **NCLB**, an 11% increase in education spending in Ohio.<sup>iii</sup>
- Key to CTB's base business is the implementation and continued funding of NCLB's assessment and accountability provisions. The current Federal budget allocates \$390 million for state development and implementation of these requirements. Most states will supplement their allocations.<sup>iv</sup>

### **NCLB outcomes:**

According to the Colorado Department of Education the Colorado drop-out rate has increased from 2.4 in 2002 to 3.6 in 2009.<sup>v</sup>

Despite evidence that schools are pressured to narrow curriculum and teach to the state tests, CSAP Test scores have remained relatively flat. Since the passage of No Child Left Behind, NAEP results as well as SAT and ACT scores have failed to show increases. Socio-economic-status has proven to be the highest correlation to student's performance on test scores in all cases.<sup>vi</sup>

In the decade following the original Elementary Secondary Education Act, poverty rates in the U.S. dropped to their lowest level since comprehensive records began in 1958: from 17.3% in 1965, the year the act was implemented to 11.1% in 1973.<sup>vii</sup>

According to recent census data the number of children under the age of 18 who live below the poverty line in the United States increased by 9% between 2000 and 2006. In Colorado,

the number of children living in poverty grew by 72%, the highest rate increase in the nation.<sup>viii</sup>

NCLB has been imposed on a public school system that remains unequal. Inequities have made the federal mandates not only onerous but also exceedingly unfair. Under the Act's accountability provisions, schools with the greatest levels of poverty have been labeled as "low performing" and penalized under various sanctions.<sup>ix</sup>

---

<sup>i</sup> The National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL), presentation to the Colorado Legislature Joint Education Committee, February 15th 2007.

<sup>ii</sup> William Mathis, Two Very Different Questions, Ed Week

<http://www.edweek.org/login.html?source=http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2004/04/21/32mathis.h23.html&destination=http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2004/04/21/32mathis.h23.html&levelId=2100>

<sup>iii</sup> <http://www.schoolfunding.info/states/oh/1-29-04NCLBCostOut.php3>

<sup>iv</sup> McGraw-Hill Factbook 2004, p.9. "The federal No Child Left Behind Act, passed in 2001, continues to have a significant impact on the education marketplace...Moreover, the Act's accountability provisions have created widespread opportunities for our testing and assessment offerings." Harold McGraw III, Chairman's letter, 2003.<sup>iv</sup>

<sup>v</sup> Colorado Annual Dropout Rates by Race Ethnicity 1995-2006, Colorado Department of Education

<sup>vi</sup> NAEP Results Produce More Evidence of NCLB Failure, Press release, FairTest, April 28, 2009. <http://fairtest.org/naep-results-produce-more-evidence-nclbs-failure>

<sup>vii</sup> US Census Bureau - 1959-2009.

<http://thesocietypages.org/graphicsociology/2010/09/16/poverty-in-america-us-census-bureau-graphics-1959-2009/>

<sup>viii</sup> 2010 Kids Count, Colorado Children's Campaign. [http://www.coloradokids.org/facts/kids\\_count/publications.html#](http://www.coloradokids.org/facts/kids_count/publications.html#)

<sup>ix</sup> Open to the Public: How Communities, Parents and Students Assess the Impact of the No Child Left Behind Act 2004-2007 The Realities Left Behind, Public Education Network 2007