

# No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)

## Introduction and Summary

President George Bush signed the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, January 8, 2002. This legislation signified the most extensive federal education reform in decades. Some of the major requirements under the new law include:

## Accountability and Assessment

### By the 2002- 2003 school year:

- States and districts must distribute report cards to the public.
- Schools identified as in need of improvement under the 1994 ESEA reauthorization will face corrective actions.
- States must set their adequate yearly progress (AYP) "starting point" based on 2001- 2002 data. All students must improve their performance and achieve a state-defined level of proficiency within 12 years.
- Districts must annually assess limited English proficiency students for proficiency.
- All states must participate in National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) fourth and eighth grade reading and math examinations.

### By the 2005- 2006 school year:

- States must implement annual reading and math assessments in grades three through eight.
- States must adopt standards for science.

### By the 2007- 2008 school year:

- States must assess students in science once during each of the following grade spans: three through five, six through nine and 10-12.

## Teaching Quality

### By the 2002- 2003 school year:

- New teachers hired with Title I funds must be "highly qualified."
- New paraprofessionals hired with Title I funds must meet new quality standards. States and districts must report progress toward ensuring all teachers are "highly qualified."

### By the 2005- 2006 school year:

- All teachers in core academic subjects must be "highly qualified."
- All paraprofessionals working in programs supported with Title I funds must meet the requirements to be "highly qualified."