



# THE ACHIEVER

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July 15, 2002

## RAISING STANDARDS, ENSURING PROGRESS

On July 5<sup>th</sup>, Secretary Paige and his staff in the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education issued new federal regulations that implement recent changes to the standards and assessment provisions of the *No Child Left Behind Act*. As required by law, these regulations were drafted after a negotiated rulemaking process that was held in March of this year. The negotiating committee was comprised of parents, teachers, members of the public, school board members, and state and local education administrators.

During the rulemaking process, the secretary received advice and recommendations from 140 interested parties. The final regulations include an analysis of these comments and of the resulting changes to the regulations.

The final regulations are published in the Federal Register and can be found at <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/index.html>.

***“Education...means emancipation. It means light and liberty. It means the uplifting of the soul of man into the glorious light of truth, the light by which men can only be made free.”***

Frederick Douglass

## **CLOSE UP ON *NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND***

### **How Student Achievement is Measured**

The first step toward creating a strong school accountability system is setting the bar for academic achievement. Under existing law, states are required to develop academic content standards for what every child should know and learn in reading and math. Many states already have rigorous academic standards in place. Once the standards are set, then the curriculum—the lessons and materials used in the classroom—can be aligned with those standards.

Under *No Child Left Behind*, the success of the public schools will be measured by how well students are progressing toward and meeting the standards. Specifically, student progress will be measured in grades 3 through 8 by annual, statewide assessments aligned with the state standards. Testing annually is important because the results provide an independent measure of how much progress students have made toward meeting the academic content standards.

The assessment requirements under *No Child Left Behind* hold schools accountable for the achievement of *all* students. Test results show principals how much progress each teacher's students have made, so they can make good decisions about program selection, curriculum, and professional development. Test results give parents information about the academic progress of their children and the quality of their children's schools. The results also help policymakers and state and local leaders by providing critical information about which schools and school districts are succeeding and why.

## Tip For Parents

Are your children spending too many hours watching TV and playing video games? Help your children succeed during the school year by encouraging them to read during the summer months. According to studies compiled by the Colorado State Library:

- ❖ Reading gets better when you practice it.
- ❖ Children lose school-year reading gains over the summer if they don't read.
- ❖ Children who attended a summer library program read better than those in a summer camp program.
- ❖ Children in a summer library program are more likely to read at their grade level or above than their non-participating peers.
- ❖ Children in a summer program who visited the library and did free reading made more reading test gains than those in a traditional language arts summer program.

Most local libraries offer summer reading programs. Contact your local library for more information.

[http://www.cde.state.co.us/ctbl/download/pdf/summer\\_reading\\_program.pdf](http://www.cde.state.co.us/ctbl/download/pdf/summer_reading_program.pdf)

## NEW BILINGUAL WEBSITE WITH INFORMATION ABOUT GOING TO COLLEGE

The White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans, along with its strategic partners, has created [www.YesICan.gov](http://www.YesICan.gov) ([www.YoSiPuedo.gov](http://www.YoSiPuedo.gov)), an interactive, bilingual website aimed at building awareness among parents and students. Some of the resources available on the site include, *Myths and Facts about College Costs* and *Twenty Things You Need to Know About Paying for College*. The site also includes a section especially designed for children. The fun and colorful “Kid’s Zone” can be found at: [www.YesICanKids.gov](http://www.YesICanKids.gov).

Today in Los Angeles, California, Latin recording artist **Jon Secada** will join U.S. Treasurer **Rosario Marin**, and a new mascot, **Pablo the Eagle**, to launch a nationwide, grassroots effort to make these tools available to parents, educators, and community leaders.

For more information, contact the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans at:

[Whitehouseforhispaniceducation@ed.gov](mailto:Whitehouseforhispaniceducation@ed.gov)

*According to a recent study released by the Tomas Rivera Policy Institute, 96% of Hispanic parents surveyed expect their children to go to college. However, researchers found that 66% of those parents could not answer 4 of 8 basic questions about what it takes to make college a reality for their children.*

[www.YesICan.gov](http://www.YesICan.gov)

[www.YoSiPuedo.gov](http://www.YoSiPuedo.gov)

## **SECRETARY ROD PAIGE CONTINUES TOUR ACROSS AMERICA**

On July 8<sup>th</sup> in Louisville, Ky., Secretary Paige addressed the national meeting of the National Federation of the Blind, continuing his efforts to build awareness of *No Child Left Behind* and to rally Americans to help implement this new law.

“Our president believes there are no limits to what can be achieved when all Americans have the opportunity to learn, live independently, and pursue their dreams,” Paige said.

On July 9<sup>th</sup> in Orlando, Fla., Secretary Paige enlisted the support of the 8,500 members of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority to join his partnership to leave no child behind. “We need more doers like each of you—taking the initiative and making a difference in the lives of

others,” Paige said. “And I’m proud and honored that one of the ways you’ve chosen to make a difference is by partnering with the Department of Education to help meet the president’s goal for every child to be educated, with no child left behind. We have a lot of work to do.”

Earlier this year, Secretary Paige joined Dr. Dorothy Height, the chair and president emerita of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), to announce the new Partnership for Academic Achievement to close the achievement gap between African-American youngsters and their peers.

As part of the partnership, Paige announced that he will host a Secretary’s Reading Leadership Academy for the members of the NCNW, to help them understand the best way to help children learn to read—and what the research shows about how children learn to read—so the members of the council can help children in this critical skill.

On July 12<sup>th</sup>, the Secretary made the 14<sup>th</sup> stop on his tour in Denver, Colorado at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, to focus on E-Learning.

Secretary Paige kicked off his tour in Albuquerque, N.M., in April 2002 to inform parents, educators, community and business leaders and other stakeholders about the most sweeping change in education policy in three decades—and to ask for their help in strengthening our schools and leaving no child behind.

To read more about these stops on the “Tour Across America,” please visit:

<http://www.nochildleftbehind.gov/media/news/index.html>

*We hope you find the No Child Left Behind e-newsletter of interest. We will be sending these out regularly. You can also check out our website, which is updated daily, and serves as a one-stop shop for parents and families, teachers and principals, local and state officials, and members of the business and civic communities. If you have any questions or suggestions about topics you would like to know more about, please e-mail [nochildleftbehind@ed.gov](mailto:nochildleftbehind@ed.gov). If you would like to unsubscribe to this newsletter, please e-mail [listproc@inet.ed.gov](mailto:listproc@inet.ed.gov), and write this message: unsubscribe NoChildLeftBehind.*