

# THE FACTS ABOUT...

---

**The Challenge:** Nothing is more important to a child's success in school than finding well-prepared teachers. But millions of children do not have the benefit of a well-prepared teacher in their classrooms.

**The Solution:** Every state should have a well-prepared teacher in every classroom by 2005. A prepared teacher knows what to teach, how to teach and has command of the subject matter being taught.

## **President Bush recognizes the problem.**

- Just 41 percent of eighth-grade math teachers majored in math in school. That's 30 percentage points lower than the international average.
- In English, one-fifth of all public school students in grades seven through twelve were taught by teachers who did not have at least a minor in English literature, communications or journalism.
- In history and physical science, more than half of America's students are being taught by a teacher who has never studied the subject in any concentrated way.
- That's more than four million students in physics, chemistry and history classes every day with teachers lacking preparation for teaching their subjects.

## ***No Child Left Behind* gives states and school districts the flexibility to find innovative ways to improve teacher quality including:**

- alternative ways of becoming a teacher, so that experienced professionals can become teachers faster;
- merit pay authorization enabling states and districts to reward good teachers and encourage them to stay in the profession; and
- authorization to states and districts to give bonuses to teachers in high-need subject areas like math and science to ensure that America remains competitive with the rest of the world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## **We can't lock out Americans who step forward to help with the teacher crisis.**

- The president's budget calls for a boost in the Troops to Teachers program to encourage men and women in the military, many with much-needed math and science experience, to take up teaching.
- His budget also calls for increases in the Transition to Teaching Program. This program helps recruit high-quality professionals to become teachers. It also encourages programs like Teach for America, which recruits many of our best college graduates.

## **We have to protect teachers so they can teach—and maintain order. *No Child Left Behind* does that.**

- *No Child Left Behind* protects teachers, principals and other school professionals from harmful litigation when they take reasonable actions to maintain order and discipline in the classroom.

**Supporting teachers means giving them the very best tools—the best research-based lessons and materials and the best training to ensure that no child is left behind.**

