

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT

Big news nationally. Not completely new news, but big nonetheless.

At the beginning of 2002, President George Bush, Jr. signed a new law that will affect education officially for the next 12 years, and unofficially a lot longer than that.

The highlights of this law are ...

1. “stronger accountability for results”
(Translation: Standardized testing in every state, both of individual children and specific subgroups. Plus, much stricter qualification requirements for teachers and assistants)
2. “increased flexibility and local control”
(Translation: States and districts get more choices about how they spend federal money)
3. “expanded options for parents”
(Translation: Schools and districts have to distribute “report cards” on their own performance, based on student achievement on standardized tests. Parents with kids in “failing” schools can move them to higher-performing schools. Title I funds (about \$500-1000/child) can be used for tutoring, afterschool programs, summer school, etc. for children in schools designated as failing.)
4. “emphasis on teaching methods that have been proven to work”
(Translation: A variety of teaching methods and school reform movements are being evaluated right now. The ones that seem the most effective, such as the North Carolina A+ Schools Network, will be the ones most likely to be funded)

No Subject Left Behind: A Guide to Arts Education Opportunities in the 2001 No Child Left Behind Act: For an abbreviated version of *No Child Left Behind* and the multiple opportunities for arts education, click on Resources & Links on the side bar.

For the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction summary of *No Child Left Behind*, see www.ncpublicschools.org

For the entire Act, see www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02