



# No Child Left Behind General Information



## What is No Child Left Behind?

**No Child Left Behind (NCLB)** is the federal education plan for public schools. It is the name given to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) when it was reauthorized in 2001.

NCLB is designed to improve student learning and help schools do a better job of teaching. The law includes several important opportunities for parents to be involved with schools. The spirit behind the NCLB law is to create a climate where high quality education is supported for all children so that every child can reach their full potential. It is based on the philosophy that all children can learn and the goal is to find the best way to help them. NCLB is working to ensure that all children receive a quality education.

## Cornerstones of NCLB

### 1. Holding schools accountable for results

NCLB requires every state to set high academic standards for what children should know and be able to do and to set yearly goals toward achieving those standards. NCLB requires that all states test children in Math, English, and Language Arts in grades 3-8 and one time in high school to measure their progress. By 2007-2008, students will take Science tests once during the elementary, middle and high school years.

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) is the minimum level of improvement in English, Language Arts, and Math (and Science, starting in 2007) that school districts and schools must achieve every year on the state assessment tests to meet state goals.

Every year parents should receive their child's New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) scores as well as a local school report cards that give an overall picture of how the their child's school and the school district is doing.

***For more information on Accountability or School Report Cards, please refer to the NH PIRC Tip Sheets on these topics.***

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## **2. Giving states and districts flexibility in how they spend federal money**

NCLB allows for states and districts to use resources where they are needed most. Principals and administrators can move funds from one program to another to use money wisely and to meet student needs.

## **3. Using scientific research to guide classroom practice**

NCLB focuses on teaching methods and curriculum that have been proven by research to work.

## **4. Involving parents by giving them information and choices about their child's education**

NCLB requires states, districts, and schools to develop ways to get parents more involved in their child's education and in improving their child's school. It gives parents important and up-to-date information about their child's school and district so that they may make informed decisions about their child's education and ensures that schools are held accountable.

Parents with children in Title I schools, especially those "in need of improvement" have special rights and responsibilities. These may include School Choice, Supplemental Educational Services (SES) and involvement in creating the school's School Improvement Plan.

***For more information on parent involvement, school choice, SES and School Improvement Plan, ask for NH PIRC's Tip Sheets on these topics.***



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