

# *The Education Report*

*A weekly report of public policy issues in American Education from*

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**May 24, 2002**

## **ED Holds Reading Research Symposium**

Before an auditorium filled to capacity, Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education Susan Neuman welcomed attendees to a research symposium titled "Putting Reading Research Into Practice." In the audience were association representatives, Department of Education personnel, Hill staff, and interested representatives from organizations around the country. This was the second in a series of symposium that the Department of Education is sponsoring to educate the public about the use of scientifically based research in education.

As Assistant Secretary Neuman noted, the term "scientifically based research" appears in the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) statute no fewer than 100 times. This marks an important departure in thinking at the Department regarding the expenditure of federal dollars. If we are to leave no child behind, according to Neuman, we must only invest in curriculum, practice and training programs that are proven to be effective. The one area of educational research where the Department is quite confident the necessary evidence of effectiveness has been accumulated and is readily available is reading instruction.

The first speaker following Neuman was symposium moderator Dr. Reid Lyon. As Chief of the Child Development and Behavior Branch within the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), Lyon has spearheaded the drive toward a so-called "gold standard" in education. He referred to the NCLB Act as signaling a revolution of sorts in thinking about how we prepare teachers and how we teach children. Quoting studies that claim up to 60 percent of school-aged children fail to become proficient readers, he insisted this push toward greater accountability and testing to demonstrate results, was long overdue. By requiring the use of curriculum and teaching strategies with proven results, he believes real progress can be made. He credited President Bush with leading this effort.

Lyon turned to Dr. Valerie Reyna, Senior Research Advisor for the Office of Educational Research and Improvement, to discuss the current status of scientifically based research in education. In Reyna's view, the classroom is a ready-made environment to conduct randomized studies on the effectiveness of

certain reading curriculum. The random assignment of children to certain texts, with periodic review and assessment, create the kind of data necessary to determine what works in education. Reyna referred to scientific research as the “only defensible foundation for educational practice.”

After Reyna made the case for the importance of using only scientifically tested curriculum, instructional techniques and teacher training methods in education, four reading experts were called upon to explain in great detail the so-called building blocks of sound reading instruction—phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Presenters included: Barbara Foorman, Center for Academic Reading Skills, University of Texas; Linnea Ehri, Speech and Hearing Graduate Center, City University of New York; Steven Stahl, School of Teacher Education, University of Georgia; William Nagy, School of Education, Seattle Pacific University; and John Guthrie, Maryland Literacy Research Center, University of Maryland.

### **Legislators Commit to Additional FY 02 Funds for Pell Grant Program**

Both the House and Senate took action on their Fiscal Year 2002 supplemental appropriations bills this week, and neither measure contemplated cutting funding for smaller education programs to offset the funding slated to help alleviate the shortfall in the Pell Grant program.

Early this morning, the House passed its FY02 Supplemental Appropriations bill (HR 4775). The measure was reported out of the House Appropriations Committee on May 20th and out of the Rules Committee on May 22nd. Included in the bill is \$1 billion for the Pell Grant program to shore up the \$1.3 billion dollar shortfall. However, the Pell funding was not given “emergency” status and thus is provided for by additional offsets to other programs. The Senate Appropriations Committee unanimously approved a \$31 billion version of the FY02 Supplemental Appropriations bill on Wednesday. Within the \$31 billion total, is \$1 billion for the Pell Grant program. However, unlike the House version of this bill, the Senate bill gives the program “emergency” status, thus requiring no offsets. The Senate will take up its supplemental bill after the Memorial Day recess.

### ***No Child Left Behind* Tour Across America Continues**

With the continuation of the *No Child Left Behind* tour across America, U.S. Secretary Rod Paige stopped in two areas of Pittsburgh, PA. Paige joined Representative Melissa Hart (R-PA) along with citizens of the area at Aliquippa Elementary School. Paige also visited, Schenley Heights Community Development Corporation's A-STEP program (After-School Tutorial and Enrichment Program), located in the Grace Memorial Presbyterian Church.

When visiting these locations, Paige talked about the supplemental services provisions in the *No Child Left Behind* Act and how these new provisions could help children in Aliquippa, and how it will help the A-STEP program, a state-approved provider of supplemental services under Pennsylvania's unique "Classroom Plus" initiative, that serves approximately 100 elementary and middle school children who need extra assistance in reading and math.

The supplemental services provision offers schools in their second year of needing school improvement (third year of failure to meet achievement goals), corrective action or restructuring, and provides low-income parents (as defined by the school district) with the option of accessing supplemental services for their children. States must establish a list of approved supplemental service providers by the beginning of the 2002-03 school year. School districts with one or more schools in the second year of school improvement must provide parents with a list of the programs available in the area so parents have a full set of options to find whatever services their children need.

Paige began his nationwide tour April 8<sup>th</sup>. In addition to his recent activities, Paige has made visits in Albuquerque, N.M., Atlanta, Washington, D.C., Las Vegas, Nev., Southfield, Mich., Milwaukee, and LaCrosse, Wis. Paige also visited Albany, N.Y. to enlist the support of New Yorkers in leaving no child behind. Other stops will be announced later. For more information, please visit: [www.NoChildLeftBehind.gov](http://www.NoChildLeftBehind.gov).

### **Department Holds Additional Title I Public Comment Meeting**

The U.S. Department of Education will hold a May 30<sup>th</sup> meeting on Standards and Assessments within Title I to allow members of the public to offer comments. The meeting will start at 9:00 am with a morning briefing on Standards and Assessments, and the public comment period will begin at 1 pm and conclude at 5:15 pm. The location is as follows:

- **Thursday, May 30, 2002**  
New York City Area (East Elmhurst, New York)

To register for these meeting, please visit: [http://www.esilsg.org/Title\\_1/](http://www.esilsg.org/Title_1/).

### **President's Commission on Excellence in Special Education**

The 24-member President's Commission on Excellence in Special Education is holding a series of meetings that will culminate with a report recommending reforms for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The site for the first meeting was Houston, TX. The Commission held a March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting in San Diego and a March 21<sup>st</sup> meeting in Los Angeles. The remaining meeting will be held **May 30-31 in Washington, DC.**

## Funding Opportunities

### ***Advanced Placement Incentive Program:***

Applications for the Advanced Placement Incentive (API) program are available through the Department of Education. The API program is a competitive grant program to increase the participation of low-income students in pre and advanced placement courses to achieve high standards in english, math and science.

Eligibility: State Education Agencies, Local Education Agencies, any nonprofit educational entities with expertise in advanced placement services.

Funding: \$2,000,000 for 5 to 15 awards. Grants will average \$350,000 per year for a project length of up to 36 months.

Application deadline: July 8, 2002

For more information visit: [http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2002\\_register&docid=02-13023-filed.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2002_register&docid=02-13023-filed.pdf).

### ***Advanced Placement Test Fee Program:***

Applications for the Advanced Placement Test Fee Program are available through the Department of Education. The Advanced Placement Test Fee Program provides grants to states to enable them to pay test fees for advanced placement tests for eligible low-income students.

Eligibility: State Educational Agencies

Funding: Up to \$1,000,000 for 5 to 20 awards. Grants will average \$225,000 per year for a project length of up to 36 months.

Application deadline: July 8, 2002.

For more information visit: [http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2002\\_register&docid=02-13024-filed.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2002_register&docid=02-13024-filed.pdf).

### ***School Leadership Program:***

Applications for the School Leadership Program are available through the Department of Education. The School Leadership Program will award funds for a leadership program to mentor and train principles to serve high need schools.

Eligibility: High need Local Education Agencies

Funding: \$10,000,000 for the first 12 months. There will be 22 awards of an average \$450,000 for a project length of up to 36 months.

Application deadline: July 8, 2002.

For more information visit: [http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2002\\_register&docid=02-13022-filed.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2002_register&docid=02-13022-filed.pdf).

***Mentoring Programs:***

Applications for the Mentoring Programs are available through the Department of Education. This funding opportunity provides assistance to promote mentoring programs for children with greatest need.

Eligibility: Local educational agencies; nonprofit, community-based organizations (CBOs), which may include faith-based organizations; a partnership between an LEA and a CBO.

Funding: \$17,500,000 for 115 awards. Grants will average \$150,000 per year for a project length of up to 36 months.

Application Deadline: July 2, 2002.

For more information visit: [http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2002\\_register&docid=02-13161-filed.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2002_register&docid=02-13161-filed.pdf).

***Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program:***

Applications for the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program are available through the Department of Education. This funding opportunity will carry out a coordinated program of scientifically based research, demonstration projects, innovative strategies, and similar activities designed to build and enhance the ability of elementary and secondary schools nationwide to meet the special educational needs of gifted and talented students.

Eligibility: State educational agencies, local educational agencies, institutions of higher education, other public agencies, and other private agencies and organizations

Funding: Priority 1--\$5,100,000, Priority 2--\$3,750,000. Awards available will be as follows: Priority 1--10, Priority 2—12. Estimated size of awards will be: Priority 1--\$400,000-\$600,000, Priority 2--\$200,000-\$300,000. Project lengths will be up to 60 months for the first priority and up to 36 months for the second priority.

Application Deadline: July 8, 2002.

For more information visit: [http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2002\\_register&docid=02-13160-filed.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2002_register&docid=02-13160-filed.pdf).

***Special Education—Training and Information for Parents of Children with Disabilities:***

Published in the Federal Register is a notice providing closing dates and other information regarding the transmittal of applications for FY 2002 competitions for the Special Education--Training and Information for Parents of Children with Disabilities (one priority) program authorized by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

For more information visit: [http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2002\\_register&docid=02-13159-filed.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2002_register&docid=02-13159-filed.pdf).

**107th CONGRESS, 2nd SESSION**

TENTATIVE SENATE CALENDAR 2002/ NON-LEGISLATIVE PERIODS

Tom Daschle, Majority Leader

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| <b><i>May 27 – 31</i></b>            | <b><i>Senate not in session</i></b>                 |
| <b><i>May 27</i></b>                 | <b><i>Memorial Day (observed)</i></b>               |
| <b><i>June 3 (Mon.)</i></b>          | <b><i>Senate reconvenes</i></b>                     |
| <b><i>July 1 – 5</i></b>             | <b><i>Senate not in session</i></b>                 |
| <b><i>July 4</i></b>                 | <b><i>Independence Day</i></b>                      |
| <b><i>July 8 (Mon.)</i></b>          | <b><i>Senate reconvenes</i></b>                     |
| <b><i>August 5 - September 2</i></b> | <b><i>Senate not in session (August Recess)</i></b> |
| <b><i>September 2</i></b>            | <b><i>Labor Day</i></b>                             |
| <b><i>September 3 (Tues.)</i></b>    | <b><i>Senate reconvenes</i></b>                     |
| <b><i>September 16 (Mon.)</i></b>    | <b><i>Yom Kippur (NO VOTES)</i></b>                 |
| <b><i>October 4</i></b>              | <b><i>Target adjournment</i></b>                    |