

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001: An Overview

Did You know...

- That No Child Left Behind contains over 750 pages of law, 1500 pages of regulations, and over 20 “policy guidances” on various sections of the Act
- That many provisions of NCLB pertain ONLY to Title I schools and school districts
- That parents are mentioned over 240 times in the law, and there are many provisions for parents and community to be involved with the school district in decision-making, partnering, and

On January 8, 2002, the president of the United States signed into law a bipartisan education package that greatly expands the federal role in public education. Building on the 1994 *Improving America's Schools Act*, *No Child Left Behind (NCLB)* will affect every state and public school district in the country beginning with the 2002–2003 school year. More than 90 percent of America's school districts receive funding for more than 40 federal educational and supportive services programs covered by the act. The wide range of services supports before- and after-school programs, family literacy, parenting classes, library materials, technology services, educating migrant children, and safe and drug-free schools. Of the nine titles in the act, Titles I and II are the largest programs, in terms of both requirements and funding. More than 47,000 schools will receive Title I funds for extra academic support for low-income children. All school districts are eligible for Title II funds to train, retain, and re-recruit qualified teachers, principals, and paraprofessionals.

The main focus of NCLB is to improve the academic achievement of students in low-performing schools around the country. It strives to have every student achieving at a proficient level, as defined by each state, by the 2013–2014 school year. To achieve this objective, the act focuses on the following elements:

- Development of state standards, assessment systems, and accountability measures
- Highly qualified teachers, principals, and paraprofessionals
- Rewards for schools that meet or exceed academic expectations
- Identification of schools that fall behind in progress toward state standards
- Funding for schools that need special assistance to meet NCLB requirements
- Parental and community involvement
- Parental choice and supplemental services

What Are the Provisions of NCLB?

NCLB includes provisions that affect every state and every school district in the country, as well as provisions that affect only Title I schools—i.e., schools with large numbers of children from low-income families that often need additional resources to attain state standards.

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NCLB state requirements:

- Have in place for the 2002–2003 school year challenging academic content and achievement standards for all students in reading/language arts and mathematics.
- Have in place by the 2005–2006 school year a state assessment system for annual tests in reading/language arts and mathematics in grades 3–8, and for a single test in grades 10–12.
- Have science standards in place by the beginning of the 2005–2006 school year.
- Assess every student in science, by the 2007–2008 school year, at least once in each of these grade spans: 3–5, 6–9, and 10–12.
- Align state standards with assessments.
- Have all students attain a level of proficiency, as measured by state assessments, by the 2013–2014 school year.
- Provide school districts assistance in developing parental involvement programs for the district and the schools.
- Identify the number of limited English proficient (LEP) students and help develop an English proficiency test if local school districts are unable to do so.
- Develop instructional benchmarks defining the language proficiency LEP students should attain.
- Include LEP students and disabled students in the academic assessments required of all other students.
- Disseminate an annual student performance report card that provides parents and community representatives with comparative statewide information for all local

NCLB school district requirements:

- Assess every student annually in reading/language arts and mathematics in grades 3–8, and once in grades 10–12, beginning in the 2005–2006 school year.
- Assess LEP students, providing reasonable accommodations in language to yield accurate and reliable information about student progress in meeting state standards.
- Assess disabled students, providing reasonable adaptations and accommodations necessary to measure academic achievement.
- Assess every student in science in at least one grade of grades 3–5, 6–9, and 10–12 by the 2007–2008 school year.
- Develop a parental involvement policy with input from and the agreement of parents.

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NCLB school district requirements:

- Disseminate an annual student performance report card that provides parents and community representatives with comparative information about performance at the school district and individual school levels, based on state assessments.
- Require all teachers of core academic subjects to be highly qualified by the end of the 2005–2006 school year.
- Require all teachers and paraprofessionals in Title I programs to meet the highly qualified standards set by the state, starting with the 2002–2003 school year.
- Identify all Title I schools that fall into needing improvement, corrective action, or restructured categories; notify parents what those terms mean and what options they have.

Resources

NCLB Legislation

- Passed by the House (HR 1 EH): May 23, 2001
[http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action Briefs/Legislation/HR1 EH.pdf](http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action%20Briefs/Legislation/HR1%20EH.pdf)
- Engrossed Amendment as Agreed to by Senate (HR 1 EAS): June 14, 2001
[http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action Briefs/Legislation/HR 1 ENR.pdf](http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action%20Briefs/Legislation/HR%201%20ENR.pdf)
- Passed by the House and Senate (HR 1 ENR)
[http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action Briefs/Legislation/HR 1 EAS.pdf](http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action%20Briefs/Legislation/HR%201%20EAS.pdf)
- Conference Report (HR 107-334): December 13, 2001
[http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action Briefs/Legislation/HR 334.107.pdf](http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action%20Briefs/Legislation/HR%20334.107.pdf)
- Signed into Public Law (PL 107-110): January 8, 2002
[http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action Briefs/Legislation/PL 107-110.pdf](http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action%20Briefs/Legislation/PL%20107-110.pdf)

NCLB Programs

Title I — Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged

- <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg1.html>
- Part A — Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Educational Agencies
<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg2.html>
- Part B — Student Reading Skills Improvement Grants
<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg4.html>
- Part C — Education of Migratory Children
<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg8.html>

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- Part D — Prevention and Intervention Programs for Children and Youth Who are Neglected, Delinquent, or At-Risk – <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg9.html>
- Part E — National Assessment of Title I – <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg12.html>
- Part F — Comprehensive School Reform – <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg13.html>
- Part G — Advanced Placement Programs
<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg14.html>
- Part H — School Dropout Prevention – <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg15.html>
- Part I — General Provisions – <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg18.html>

Title II — Preparing, Training, and Recruiting High Quality Teachers and Principals

<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg19.html>

- Part A — Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting Fund
<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg20.html>
- Part B — Mathematics and Science Partnerships
<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg26.html>
- Part C — Innovation for Teacher Quality
<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg27.html>
- Part D — Enhancing Education Through Technology
<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg34.html>

Title III — Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Students

<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg39.html>

- Part A — English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement, and Academic Achievement Act – <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg40.html>
- Part B — Improving Language Instruction Educational Programs
<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg45.html>
- Part C— General Provisions – <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg50.html#partc>

Title IV — 21st Century Schools – <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg51.html>

- Part A — Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities
<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg51.html>
- Part B — 21st Century Community Learning Centers
<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg55.html>
- Part C — Environmental Tobacco Smoke – <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg56.html>

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Title V — Promoting Informed Parental Choice and Innovative Programs

<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg57.html>

- Part A — Innovative Programs – <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg57.html>
- Part B — Public Charter Schools – <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg62.html>
- Part C — Magnet Schools Assistance – <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg65.html>
- Part D — Fund for the Improvement of Education
<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg66.html>

Title VI — Flexibility and Accountability

<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg87.html>

- Part A — Improving Academic Achievement
<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg87.html>
- Part B — Rural Education Initiative – <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg93.html>
- Part C — General Provisions – <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg97.html>

Title VII — Indian, Native Hawaiian, and Alaska Native Education

<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg98.html>

- Part A — Indian Education – <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg98.html>
- Part B — Native Hawaiian Education – <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg104.html>
- Part C — Alaska Native Education – <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg105.html>

Title VIII — Impact Aid Program – <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg106.html>

Title IX — General Provisions – <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg107.html>

- Part A — Definitions – <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg107.html>
- Part B — Flexibility in the Use of Administrative and Other Funds
<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg108.html>
- Part C — Coordination of Programs; Consolidated State and Local Plans and Applications
<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg109.html>
- Part D — Waivers – <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg110.html>
- Part E — Uniform Provisions – <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg111.html>
- Part F — Evaluations – <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg113.html>

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Title IX — General Provisions – <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg107.html>

- Part A — Definitions – <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg107.html>
- Part B — Flexibility in the Use of Administrative and Other Funds
<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg108.html>
- Part C — Coordination of Programs; Consolidated State and Local Plans and Applications – <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg109.html>
- Part D — Waivers – <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg110.html>
- Part E — Uniform Provisions – <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg111.html>
- Part F — Evaluations – <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg113.html>

Title X — Repeals, Redesignations, and Amendments to Other Statutes

<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg114.html>

- Part A — Repeals – <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg114.html>
- Part B — Redesignations – <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg115.html>
- Part C — Homeless Education – <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg116.html>
- Part D — Native American Education Improvement
<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg118.html>
- Part E — Bureau of Indian Affairs Programs
<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg119.html>

Regulations

- Title I—Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged; Final Rule (December 2, 2002) – <http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action Briefs/regulations/Title I Final Regulations.pdf>
- Summary of Final Regulations
<http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action Briefs/regulations/Title I Regs Summary.doc>

Policy Guidance

- Reading First Program (Apr 1, 2002)
<http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action Briefs/guidance/Reading First Guidance.pdf>
- Unsafe School Choice Option Draft Non-Regulatory Guidance (Jul 23, 2002)
<http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action Briefs/guidance/Unsafe School Choice Guidance.pdf>

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- Comprehensive School Reform Program (Aug 1, 2002)
[http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action Briefs/guidance/Comprehensive School Reform Program Guidance 02.pdf](http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action%20Briefs/guidance/Comprehensive%20School%20Reform%20Program%20Guidance%2002.pdf)
- Title V, Part A of the ESEA as reauthorized by the No Child Left Behind Act (Aug 28, 2002)
[http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action Briefs/guidance/Title V Guidance 02.pdf](http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action%20Briefs/guidance/Title%20V%20Guidance%2002.pdf)
- Community Service Grants Draft Non-regulatory Guidance (Sep 20, 2002)
[http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action Briefs/guidance/Community Service Grant Guidance 02.pdf](http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action%20Briefs/guidance/Community%20Service%20Grant%20Guidance%2002.pdf)
- Draft Transferability Authority Guidance (Oct 4, 2002)
[http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action Briefs/guidance/Transferability Guidance.doc](http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action%20Briefs/guidance/Transferability%20Guidance.doc)
- Access to High School Students and Information on Students by Military Recruiters (Oct 9, 2002) [http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action Briefs/guidance/Military Recruiters Guidance.pdf](http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action%20Briefs/guidance/Military%20Recruiters%20Guidance.pdf)
- NCLB Desktop Reference (Oct 30, 2002)
[http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action Briefs/guidance/NCLB Desktop Reference.pdf](http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action%20Briefs/guidance/NCLB%20Desktop%20Reference.pdf)
- Title I Paraprofessionals Draft Non-Regulatory Guidance (Nov 7, 2002)
[http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action Briefs/guidance/Title I Para Guidance.doc](http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action%20Briefs/guidance/Title%20I%20Para%20Guidance.doc)
- Draft Non-Regulatory Guidance on Public School Choice (Dec 4, 2002)
[http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action Briefs/guidance/Public School Choice Guidance 2002.pdf](http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action%20Briefs/guidance/Public%20School%20Choice%20Guidance%202002.pdf)
- Draft Title II Non-Regulatory Guidance: Improving Teacher Quality State Grants (Dec 19, 2002) [http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action Briefs/guidance/TitleII TQ Guidance.doc](http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action%20Briefs/guidance/TitleII%20TQ%20Guidance.doc)
- Non-regulatory Draft Guidance for Implementing the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (SDFSCA) (Jan 2, 2003)
[http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action Briefs/guidance/Safe and Drug Free Guidance.pdf](http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action%20Briefs/guidance/Safe%20and%20Drug%20Free%20Guidance.pdf)
- 21st Century Community Learning Centers Non-Regulatory Guidance (Feb 26, 2003)
[http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action Briefs/guidance/21st Century Learning Guidance.pdf](http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action%20Briefs/guidance/21st%20Century%20Learning%20Guidance.pdf)
- Standards and Assessments Non-Regulatory Draft Guidance (Mar 10, 2003)
[http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action Briefs/guidance/Standards and Assessment Guidance 03.pdf](http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action%20Briefs/guidance/Standards%20and%20Assessment%20Guidance%2003.pdf)
- Early Reading First Program (Mar 17, 2003)
[http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action Briefs/guidance/Early Reading First Guidance.doc](http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action%20Briefs/guidance/Early%20Reading%20First%20Guidance.doc)
- Draft Guidance for the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program (Mar 28, 2003)
[http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action Briefs/guidance/Homeless Guidance.pdf](http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action%20Briefs/guidance/Homeless%20Guidance.pdf)

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- Final Non-Regulatory Guidance on the Title III State Formula Grant Program - Standards, Assessments and Accountability (May 2, 2003)
[http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action Briefs/guidance/Title III Guidance 03.pdf](http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action%20Briefs/guidance/Title%20III%20Guidance%2003.pdf)
- Rural Education Achievement Program (Jun 24, 2003)
[http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action Briefs/guidance/Rural Education Achievement Program.doc](http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action%20Briefs/guidance/Rural%20Education%20Achievement%20Program.doc)
- Charter School Program Guidance (Aug 20, 2003)
[http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action Briefs/guidance/Charter School Guidance 03.pdf](http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action%20Briefs/guidance/Charter%20School%20Guidance%2003.pdf)
- Supplemental Educational Services Non-Regulatory Guidance (Aug 22, 2003)
[http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action Briefs/guidance/Supplemental Educational Services Guidance.pdf](http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb/Action%20Briefs/guidance/Supplemental%20Educational%20Services%20Guidance.pdf)

History of No Child Left Behind – <http://www.ncsl.org/programs/educ/NCLBHistory.htm>