

Especially for Parents

A.A.S.D. Elementary Schools

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND - PARENT NEWSLETTER

(Edition #14)

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In the past 13 editions, this newsletter has provided information about the *No Child Left Behind Act*. This federal legislation, since January of 2002, attempts to ensure that **every student**, in **every school**, in **every state** in the nation, has the opportunity to learn, regardless of race, economic status, special needs or limited English proficiency.

PROVEN METHODS

No Child Left Behind puts special emphasis on determining what educational programs and practices have been proven effective by scientific research. Federal funding is targeted to support these programs and teaching methods that work to improve student learning and achievement.

NCLB MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania has received \$89 million in reading grants to help schools and districts improve children's reading achievement through scientifically proven methods of instruction since 2002. In total, over six years, Pennsylvania is set to receive approximately \$184 million in Reading First funds.

NCLB - IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Act)

In December (2004) President Bush signed into law a bill revamping the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The new legislation builds on the reforms of *NCLB*, including parental choice and academic results for students, while addressing issues of paperwork reduction and litigation to ensure a quality education for over six million children with disabilities.


TIPS FOR PARENTS

(Source: Adapted from an article by Dr. Smialek on her website)

Tips for Parents will continue to focus on helping your child with homework.

Give Direction and Guidance for More Difficult Tasks

When your youngster doesn't seem to grasp a concept when the solution is so apparent to you, frustration mounts. If this happens to you, try some of these tips:

- **Separate text from graphics** - Direct your child to look over pictures, charts or graphs before reading. Visual cues give information that are needed to answer questions without sometimes reading the text first.
 - **Use memory cues** - When doing math problems, make up a short list of steps to help remember all the procedures that need to be done in order. For instance, when working with division problems, write DMSB or Dad, Mother, Sister, Brother on top of the paper to remember the steps in long division problems: Divide, Multiply, Subtract, Bring Down.
 - **Reverse roles** - Try reversing roles when doing homework. Play the role of the student and have your child play the role of the teacher. Explaining concepts to others is one of the best ways of learning concepts.
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