



A Parent's Guide to: **The No Child Left Behind Act**

Parents and schools working together for student achievement.

The SD Parent Resource Network is an affiliate of Black Hills Special Services Cooperative and is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Innovation and Improvement.

On January 8, 2002, President Bush signed into law the *No Child Left Behind Act*. This educational law was designed to improve student achievement and change the culture of America's schools.

The goals for ALL children in the NCLB Act include:

1. Proficiency in reading and math by the 2013-2014 school year.
2. English proficiency for Limited English Proficient students.
3. Qualified teachers in every classroom by 2005-2006.
4. Safe and drug free learning environments.
5. High school graduation for ALL students.

Parent's Role in NCLB

The No Child Left Behind Act recognizes the vital role parents play in their children's education. No Child Left Behind identifies specific roles for parents at school, at home, and in decision making for their children.

At school parents are encouraged to communicate with teachers, participate in policy-making and school improvement efforts, and volunteer at school as much as possible.

At home the role of parents is most critical. Research shows that what parents do at home is the biggest factor in how well their children do at school. Whether getting their children to school on time, talking with their children about school, providing opportunities to read or be read to, supporting completion of their homework, or encouraging learning at home and in the community, all parents have great impact on their children's success at school.

Parents whose children attend schools that have been identified "in need of improvement," may have an additional role in their children's education.

These parents may have the opportunity to make decisions about the school their children attend, and, in some cases, may request supplemental education services for their children.

No Child Left Behind recognizes that schools and students will only reach high levels of academic achievement if parents and teachers work together to reach that goal.





What information can parents expect to receive?

Parents have traditionally received information specific to how their children are doing in school through parent-teacher conferences, report cards, daily school work, and results of standardized tests. This information helps parents to know the areas in which their children are doing well, and in what areas they may need additional help.

No Child Left Behind requires that parents also receive information about the performance of their children's school, the school district, and the state as a whole. Report cards for the school, the district, and the state will provide information to parents and the public on student performance and achievement, graduation rates, teacher qualifications, and the number of students tested.

Report cards will also identify schools "in improvement status." Parents of students in these schools will receive additional information about their school and options for students attending that school.

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Additional parent guides on No Child Left Behind include:

- ★ No Child Left Behind: A Parent's Guide
- ★ Standardized Tests
- ★ School Improvement
- ★ School Choice
- ★ Content Standards
- ★ Accountability and Reporting
- ★ No Child Left Behind Glossary
- ★ Report Cards

For more information, please contact any of the following—

- ★ Your local school district
- ★ The South Dakota Parent Resource Network toll free at 1-800-219-6247
- ★ South Dakota Department of Education at 605-773-4716
- ★ The U.S. Department of Education toll free at 1-800-814-6252

South Dakota Resource Network

PO Box 218 ★ Sturgis, SD 57785-0218 ★ Phone: 800-219-6247 ★ Fax: 605-347-5223 ★ www.sdprn.org

