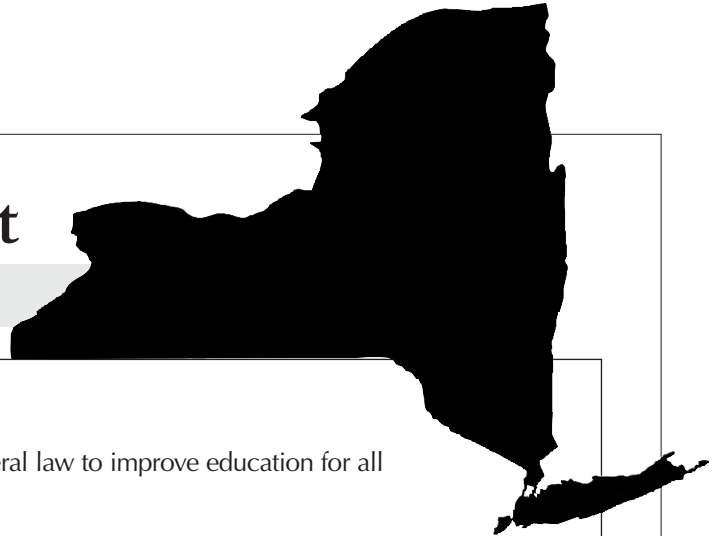


9 Necessary Questions...

Parents Ask About

No Child Left Behind



1 *What is the No Child Left Behind Act?*

The **No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001** is a federal law to improve education for all children.

It holds schools responsible for results, gives parents more choices, requires teachers to be qualified in subjects they teach, and promotes teaching methods that work. Under NCLB, states must set high standards for what children must know—and every district and school is expected to make yearly progress toward meeting these standards. The goal is to have all children achieving at their states' proficiency levels in reading, language arts, math and science by 2014.

2 *Does NCLB mean higher standards and more testing for NY students?*

New York already has high standards for its students. State achievement tests help identify schools that are doing well and schools that need to do better. NCLB requires annual tests of all students in grades 3 through 8 and in high school in reading, language arts, and math by 2005. While the NCLB law requires science testing by 2007-2008, New York already meets this requirement.

3 *Does NCLB affect all schools in the same way?*

No. Many provisions under NCLB apply only to schools that receive Title I federal funding for low-income students. Title I schools receive extra resources for teachers, learning materials, and parent involvement. Parents of students in Title I schools now have new options if the schools their children attend do not make adequate yearly progress.

4 *What are these new options for parents?*

A school that fails to make adequate progress two years in a row becomes a school "in need of improvement." Because children in Title I schools in need to improvement risk falling farther and farther behind academically, the NCLB law gives parents two new options. **Public school choice**, offered in the first year of improvement, allows students to transfer to a higher performing public school in the same district. Parents must apply for a transfer. School districts must provide transportation, though limitations may apply. **Supplemental educational services**, offered in the second year of improvement, are extra tutoring or other help for students who need to catch up in important subjects like reading, language arts, and math. Parents can choose from a list of providers approved by the New York State Department of Education. School districts and charter schools, not parents, pay for these services. However, parents must arrange transportation.

5 *How will I know if my child's school is making progress?*

In New York, school district and school report cards come out each year. They should be available in languages parents can understand. These report cards compare your school with other schools in the district and state, list high school graduation rates and teacher qualifications, and show how all students are doing, by racial, income, language, etc. group. School report cards will identify Title I schools in need of improvement (schools that have not met the state goals for academic progress). District and school report cards are available online on the NYSED website at: www.EMSC.NYSED.gov.

6 *What happens to Title I schools that don't make the grade?*

There are consequences. Title I school identified as being in need of improvement must take action to improve its students' performance. The school district and the New York State Department of Education will help. Educators must involve parents in getting the school on track.

7 *What can I do to make sure my child is keeping up?*

Pay close attention to your child's test results and report cards. Know where your child stands in math, reading, language arts, and science. If your child is falling behind, talk to his or her teacher to find out how the school—and your family—can help your child catch up.

8 *What effect does NCLB have on teachers in my child's school?*

For children to be successful, teachers must be well prepared. NCLB requires that schools hire qualified teachers and paraprofessionals. It offers new resources so that teachers and paraprofessionals who are not qualified now can receive the training they need.

9 *Where can I go for more information about NCLB and what it means for my child and my child's school?*

NYSED has produced a series of parent information sheets about NCLB, called "Just the Facts... for New York Parents." Ask your school principal for this series or find them online at www.nysed.gov. The No Child Left Behind web site has a page for parents: www.nochildleftbehind.gov/parents/. In addition, know where your child's school stands under the NCLB and NYSED goals. Read your school's report card every year. Make sure that your school is making the grade. Students do best when parents and educators work together. Talk to your child's teachers and principal to find out how you can help them meet the challenge of educating all children to high standards.