

# No Child Left Behind (NCLB): Stakeholders plead for accountability

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Three years ago the American people listed education as their top priority in public opinion polls.

Parents demanded accountability, taxpayers demanded value, businesses needed better educated employees and students stuck in poor performing schools (according to state tests) needed change. The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law was signed in Hamilton, Ohio in 2001 and went into effect the following school year.

This law has accomplished a lot in three years. All 50 states now have internal and external accountability plans in place which were designed to lay the foundation for continuous school improvement as well as individual student average yearly progress (AYP). Teachers are required to meet highly qualified standards and schools are rated by each state dependent upon their students standardized test scores.

Twenty-two states (including Ohio),

however, are experiencing difficulties measuring up to the test boundaries, meanwhile acknowledging that federal funds will be pulled from those states which do not comply with NCLB. The goals are set by each state and not the federal government.

Most of the objections to the law have focused on the testing provisions, but most states already have the testing infrastructure in place. Federal funding was increased 40% during the past three years.

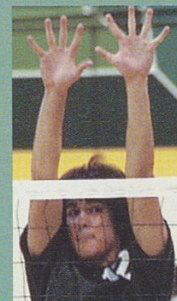
As a nation, we spend more than \$530 billion for K-12 education, which is more than the gross domestic product of Russia. Of that amount less than 1% is devoted to student assessment.

Major arguments against NCLB: (1) unfunded monolith; (2) standardized testing does not fit all students and is in direct violation of special needs students IEPs.



**NCLB LEARNS ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL!** Standardized testing means the same test, the same constraints and the same scoring mechanism. Unfortunately, standardized testing also assumes that all student test takers are the same which is not the case.

Our state  
report card  
rating:  
**Excellent**



"In order for NCLB to function properly all stakeholders' interaction must be present,"  
-Brian Kissinger, 10



"There are many questionable aspects related to the formation and contents of NCLB."  
-Laura Fisher, 10



"NCLB has good intentions, but it is too unrealistic and impractical in the aspects of standardized testing, funding, school and teacher accountability."  
-Sam Pollak, 10

What do sophomore test takers think of NCLB?