

# What is the “No Child Left Behind” Act?



“No Child Left Behind” (NCLB) is an education act (signed into law in 2002) that aims to:

- **Raise accountability** by carefully measuring school progress every year
- **Provide more financial flexibility** by allowing federal money to be used to meet school or school district needs
- **Set Goals**—for example, to improve student performance in math, reading and science
- **Improve teacher quality**—for example, by providing funds for professional development
- **Provide school choice** if a school does not meet specific educational standards
- **Make schools safer** and drug free

NCLB seeks to provide every student with a high-quality education and ensure that students are:

- challenged to meet high standards
- taught by highly qualified teachers using proven teaching methods
- able to learn in a safe, drug-free environment

The NCLB Act requires states to have accountability systems for all schools and students. Parents have a right to:

- Learn how well your child’s school is performing
- Transfer your child if it’s not meeting specific criteria by reviewing annual district and state report cards on school performance
- Learn about the school safety record; the school prevention plans including policies for disciplining students, security procedures, student codes of conduct; and the school crisis management plan.
- Transfer your child to a safer public school in your district if your child attends a school that is identified as persistently dangerous (school safety doesn’t improve), or if your child becomes a victim of a violent crime while on school property

