



## NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND - PARENT NEWSLETTER

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## STRONGER ACCOUNTABILITY

The *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) is providing parents, educators, and the public with historic levels of information about how schools in the United States are performing.

The following indicators provide a snapshot of national trends and answers to many of parents' most fundamental questions in education:

**Achievement-**

What % of 4th- and 8th-graders are proficient or above in reading and math?

**Achievement Gap-**

What % of black and Hispanic 4th- and 8th-graders are proficient or above in reading and math as compared to the same cohort of white students?

**High School Graduation-**

What is the % of public high school students who earn a regular diploma in four years?

**College Readiness-**

Of the high school students who take a college entrance exam, what % are ready for a college course?

**College Completion-**

What % of our young labor force (25-34 years old) have at least a bachelor's degree?

**National Trends\***

	<b>2000</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>Achievement</b>	25%	33%
<b>Achievement Gap</b>	23%	35%
<b>High School Graduation</b>	72%	74%
<b>College Readiness</b>	42%	42%
<b>College Completion</b>	29%	31%
<b>Composite</b>	38%	43%

\*Data sources and explanations for each indicator are available on [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov).

**TIPS FOR PARENTS**

(Source: U.S. Department of Education, [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov))

**HOW TO HELP WITH HOMEWORK - PROVIDE GUIDANCE**

The basic rule is, **don't do the assignment yourself. It's not your homework - it's your child's.** Here are some ways that you can provide guidance without taking over your child's homework.

**Help your child get organized** - Assist your child in writing out a schedule of assignments. Provide a bookbag or backpack along with homework folders, to keep things organized.

**Encourage good study habits** - Assist with time-management. Help him/her get started. Give practice tests. Have your child avoid last-minute cramming. Talk to your child about how to take a test.

**Talk about the assignments** - Talking and asking questions can help your child to think through an assignment and break it down into small, manageable parts.

**Watch for frustration** - Let your child take a break, if signs of frustration are showing. Some encouraging words from you will help in this situation.

**Give praise** - Children of all ages respond to praise.