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## EDUCATION

### *Research and Development Funding in the President's FY 2005 Budget*

The President continues to support the improvement of preK-12 students' math, science, and reading skills, with a special emphasis on the successful development and implementation of evidence-based educational programs and practices called for in the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2002. The President's 2005 Budget launches Jobs for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, a comprehensive plan to better prepare workers for jobs in the new millennium that includes new funding to improve mathematics education and help striving readers in high school. The Budget also increases support for research within the Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences to identify programs that work

#### **Jobs for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Initiative**

##### Math and Science Partnership Program

In 2002 the Administration implemented the Math and Science Partnership (MSP) initiative at the National Science Foundation and the Department of Education (ED), uniting mathematicians and scientists from institutions of higher education with teachers and administrators from primary and secondary schools to address what needs to be done to revise and strengthen how these subjects are currently taught. In 2005, the Administration shifts the focus of the program to integrating research-proven practices into classroom settings. The 2005 Budget consolidates MSP resources at ED, resulting in an increase in funding for ED's MSP program of \$120 million to \$269 million, with the additional resources supporting competitive grants targeted at improving math skills of disadvantaged high school students.

##### Striving Readers

About 4 million adolescents who are attending school have reading problems that interfere with their ability to prepare for college or get a good job. Yet middle and high schools have few proven strategies to address this serious problem. The President is proposing Striving Readers, a \$100 million initiative in the Department of Education to develop, implement and evaluate reading interventions for secondary school students reading significantly below grade level. Awards would be made to partnerships that may include colleges and universities, school districts, and other organizations. Some grantees would conduct rigorous evaluations of existing programs and others would establish or implement interventions that would be tested for effectiveness.

#### **The Institute of Education Sciences**

The 2005 Budget includes an increase in funding for ED's Institute of Education Sciences, from \$165 to \$185 million. With this increase, funding for the Department's research arm will have grown by 53% from 2001. The Institute has invested these funds in new research programs, including focused programs to identify effective approaches to mathematics and science education, to understand how to enhance children's reading comprehension and to intervene with struggling readers, to identify which preschool programs best prepare children to learn to read and do mathematics, and to determine how to improve the preparation and professional development of teachers of reading and mathematics. In addition, the Institute launched a major program to fund university-based interdisciplinary training programs in the education sciences to train a new generation of scientists who are capable of linking rigorous research to the needs of education decision makers. To make the results of high-quality research accessible to practitioners, policy-makers and the public, the Institute created the What Works Clearinghouse, which provides a central, independent, and trusted source of scientific evidence on what works in education.