

No Child Left Behind

The newly reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) is now called the *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB). The ESEA was passed by Congress in 1965 to authorize programs to benefit educationally needy elementary and secondary students. The purpose of the reauthorized ESEA was to improve teaching and learning so all children will meet the State's challenging academic content and student performance standards. *No Child Left Behind* federal law is designed to hold states and schools accountable for the achievement of all students, ensure high quality teacher preparation and training, and provide parents access to information regarding their child's education.

The new *No Child Left Behind Act* has mandated changes in every state. These changes include the approaches used to teach and test children, to analyze student achievement data, to determine the certification standards of teachers, and to promote parental involvement. Meigs County Schools, as well as other school systems, has been forced to rethink the "who, what, and when" of educating children.

NCLB has required states to deal with guidelines concerning mandated testing and the use of test data. All states must "disaggregate" test scores to ensure gaps in achievement between different groups of students can be identified. Improvement must be made in all achievement gaps identified through this process. Meigs County Schools will continually examine the disaggregated test data of the latest TCAP, TCAP Writing Assessments, and End-of-Course Tests, to ensure we are providing the most current data to guide instruction in all our schools and meet the educational needs of students.

The purpose of the Parents Right-To-Know section of the NCLB Act is to assist state and local educational agencies in promoting parental and community participation. NCLB allows for parents to be made aware of teacher/paraprofessional qualifications, to be informed of the level of achievement of their children in each of the state academic assessments, and to be notified when a school is identified as needing improvement.

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