



## ***Tip Sheet*** **No Child Left Behind** **What Parents Need to Know About**

### **School and District Report Cards**

*No Child Left Behind is the new education plan that was signed into law by President Bush in January of 2002. It is designed to improve student achievement, and decrease the achievement gap. The law includes a number of important opportunities for parents to be involved with the schools. These Tip Sheets from Parents Plus are designed to help parents understand their rights under the law.*

Parents have a right to know about their **children's progress** in school every year. This includes explanations of test scores and academic standards and has to be in language that parents can understand. It should include examples of students' school work and include clear explanations of what the student is doing well and where he needs improvement, so that parents can be effective partners in deciding how to proceed with a child's education both at home and at school.

In addition to schools notifying parents about their own children's progress in school, each fall, school districts must mail or send by e-mail a report card on how every school and the district as a whole are performing. In Wisconsin the report card is called the School or District *No Child Left Behind* Report. This report must include information on how different groups of students are doing based on the state tests.

#### ***Reports need to explain in clear language how schools and districts are doing in the following areas:***

- Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam (WKCE) scores in mathematics, reading and writing for the whole school and for special populations in the school.
  - Ethnic and racial groups
  - Special education students
  - English language learners, also called Limited English Proficient (LEP) students
  - Students in low-income families
  - Migrant students
- Graduation rates
- Percentage of teachers who are highly qualified

### **What you can do:**

- If you have not received a copy of your school report card from your school district, request a copy of it from the superintendent.
- If you do not understand everything in the report, ask for explanations.
- Examine how (or if) your school's plan for instruction addresses the information in the school report.
  - For example, if reading scores are low, what is the school doing to improve reading instruction?
  - If students with limited English are not making progress, how will the school change its program for English language learners?
  - If there's a high percentage of teachers who are not qualified, what is the plan to upgrade their skills or bring in certified teachers?
- Examine how (or if) the school district's Title I plan addresses the information in the district report. Use this information in the annual evaluation of the Title I plan and parent involvement policy.
- Make sure there is a meeting for parents at each school to explain the district and school reports, and to help parents understand their children's individual test results.

For more information about *No Child Left Behind* visit the following web sites:

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction: <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/esea/index.html>

The U.S. Department of Education's *No Child Left Behind* web site at <http://www.ed.gov/nclb/landing.jhtml>

Call Parents Plus toll free at 877 384-1769 or visit our web site at <http://www.parentspluswi.org/>