NCLB: The Myth, The History, The Reality

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Past

- 1954 – desegregation of school populations
- 1965 – Elementary and Secondary Education Act – War on Poverty – emphasis on basics; reading, writing, mathematics; equity, improved teacher preparation
- 1971 – Desegregation enforced – court ordered busing
- 1983 – Nation at Risk – loss of rigor – call for standardization and reforms
Standards Movement

- 1989 – National Standards
- 1994 – ESEA Re-authorization – outcome based education
- 1998 – states implementing national standards
- 2001 – ESEA re-authorization – NCLB – emphasis on accountability, rankings, ratings, remediation, re-alignment
Components of NCLB

- Testing in mathematics and reading, grades 3-8, one year in High School; science testing added 2005

- Schools rated for Adequate Yearly Progress – if don’t make mark in Title I schools, Supplemental Education Services are provided OR school choice by parents, at expense of Title I school

- All gaps in achievement among disparate groups of children closed by 2014; 100% literacy and mathematics proficiency
Present

- NCLB still in place – unauthorized/unfunded as of 2008

- Schools rated by states = Adequate Yearly Progress

- Schools qualify for funding by AYP rating

- 2009 - New funds put in place by O’Bama administration in the form of ARRA Law; provides grants to schools that seek to create equity, show accountability, and innovation – Race to the Top
Current status in Texas

- 2011-2011 – 249 school districts and 218 schools cited for not making AYP; marked for improvement plans

- 2011 TAKS test results: elementary, middle school, and high school; reading, writing, mathematics
  - 50th – 55th percentile

- Creation of new Career and College Readiness Standards, New STARR test, adding 12 end of course exams for graduation requirement – components of tests unknown
Outcomes of High Stakes Testing/NCLB

- Minimizing of curriculum
- Students not ready for college or careers
- Sense of inadequacy and desperation on part of teachers, administrators; resulting at times in acts of desperation
- Re-segregation – parents seeking exemplary schools, fleeing from failing school districts
- Title I students continue to be behind, although some examples of exemplary Title I schools exist in Texas
Future

- Unknown – no congressional re-authorized since 2002, due 2008, no movement by Congress to re-authorize

Current Solutions

- Secretary Duncan – provided over 300 waivers for AYP since 2009; fewer than 100 in eight previous years

- O’Bama Blueprint – 2009 recommended reauthorization of ESEA
  - Career and College Readiness
  - Great teachers and leaders
  - Equity and opportunity
  - Rewards for excellence
  - Promote innovation