

December 11, 2003

Letters to the editor
Springfield Republican
P. O. Box 2350
Springfield, MA 01102-2350

Dear Editor:

The national effort at education reform with the new Elementary And Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which I refuse to call No Child Left Behind (NCLB), has drawn public attention with several schools in the Commonwealth being labeled as failing to meet their adequate yearly progress (AYP) and/or in need of correction. Interesting to note, nearly all of these schools are located in poor urban or poor rural areas of the state. Furthermore, it is interesting that most people in the Commonwealth with an interest in education in their communities have little or no idea that the accountability regulation of ESEA, a.k.a. NCLB, will have any effect on them.

I urge all citizens who are concerned with the education of the children in their communities to become familiar with these regulations. When they do they will discover that eventually all schools in their community will be labeled as failing to meet their AYP.

This is an effort on the part of some in government to produce evidence that will further their push for vouchers and privatization of public schools. Only 25 percent of the population has a direct connection to public schools (their children) and most are woefully uninformed about the accountability in the ESEA (NCLB). This fallacious evidence will be viewed as proof that America's public schools are failing.

No one in public education wants to leave any child behind. If we are truly interested in leaving no child behind, it will take a whole lot more on the part of our national, state and local elected leaders than this shame and blame of the NCLB regulation.

Sincerely,

Timothy T. Collins
President

