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Media Contacts: Dan Langan  
Melinda Malico  
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**PAIGE RELEASES NUMBER OF SCHOOLS IN SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT  
IN EACH STATE**

*Public schools that fail to meet state standards for two years to offer children more choices*

U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige today announced that students in an estimated 8,600 schools nationwide, according to state reports, will have the option to choose and attend a higher-performing school in their school district if the school they currently attend has failed to meet state academic standards for two consecutive years.

The new options are available to parents of students in Title I-funded schools, and were established under the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, which was signed into law by President Bush on January 8, 2002. The new educational options must be provided at the start of the 2002-2003 school year.

“This is a new day in education and opportunity for the nation’s neediest children,” Paige said. “For the first time, school districts must tell, and parents will know, which schools are not making sufficient academic progress. Parents will now have new options to give their child a quality education. And new requirements for reporting on student and group progress will shine a light on achievement gaps that may have been masked in the past.”

The data covers schools in which students have not made adequate yearly progress (AYP). AYP is a state’s annual measure of school progress toward achieving state academic content standards.

Under the 1994 Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the precursor to the *No Child Left Behind Act*, each state was responsible for developing state content standards, assessments

and definitions of AYP. In each state, schools that failed to make state-defined AYP for two or more years were identified as in need of school improvement. States reported the numbers to the U.S. Department of Education this spring. Because of differences in the ways each state defines school progress, state comparisons are not valid.

Under *NCLB*, the data on school progress will be more meaningful. Unlike the 1994 law, there are consequences for schools that fail to improve and educational options for students who attend schools that are not improving under *NCLB*:

- States must have one accountability system for *all* students including academic standards, assessments and proficiency levels.
- All schools will be expected to reach 100 percent proficiency by the end of the 2013-14 school year.
- State test results must be broken out by major racial and ethnic groups, disadvantaged students, students with disabilities and limited English proficient students. Each group must show improvement.
- Information on student progress and school success must be shared annually with parents.

School districts are required to help cover the costs of transportation for students who exercise their choice option. To assist parents in obtaining supplemental services, states will prepare a list of approved service providers that can provide after-school, before-school, summer school or weekend help in reading and math. Providers are to provide high-quality, research-based instruction in line with state standards, and services can come from school districts, non-profit and for-profit organizations, faith-based groups and charity organizations.

Also, to help prepare states and districts to implement the new provisions, Paige recently hosted state and local education officials for a conference about the supplemental services requirements during which he shared a letter to states that included preliminary guidance, available at <http://www.ed.gov/PressReleases/06-2002/06142002.html>

States and most high-poverty districts are receiving significant increases in Title I funding to help support activities to improve school, Paige said. State Title I allocations can be viewed at <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OUS/Budget03/03StateTables/index.html>.

The list of states and number of schools follows. The information in this list was provided by each state.

	Title I Schools Identified for Improvement	Year
Alabama	57	2001-2002
Alaska	11	2000-2001
Arizona	344	1999-2000
Arkansas	0	2000-2001
California	1,009	2000-2001
Colorado	154	2001-2002
Connecticut	28	2000-2002
Delaware	20	2001-2002
District of Columbia	12	2000-2001
Florida	246	2000-2001
Georgia	625	2000-2001
Hawaii	85	2001-2002
Idaho	88	2001-2002
Illinois	435	2000-2001
Indiana	97	2000-2001
Iowa	26	2000-2001
Kansas	118	2000-2001
Kentucky	107	2000-2001
Louisiana	24	2000-2001
Maine	19	2000-2001
Maryland	118	2001-2002
Massachusetts	259	2000-2001
Michigan	1,513	2000-2001
Minnesota	79	2000-2001
Mississippi	122	2000-2001
Missouri	63	2002-2003
Montana	68	2000-2001
Nebraska	105	2000-2001
Nevada	19	2000-2001
New Hampshire	4	2000-2001
New Jersey	274	2000-2001
New Mexico	63	2000-2001
New York	529	2000-2001
North Carolina	17	2001-2002

North Dakota	20	2000-2001
Ohio	760	2000-2001
Oklahoma	33	2000-2001
Oregon	9	2001-2002
Pennsylvania	256	2000-2001
Puerto Rico	234	2001-2002
Rhode Island	34	2000-2001
South Carolina	31	2000-2001
South Dakota	13	2000-2001
Tennessee	132	2001-2002
Texas	121	2000-2001
Utah	22	2001-2002
Vermont	28	2001-2002
Virginia	35	2000-2001
Washington	60	2001-2002
West Virginia	13	2001-2002
Wisconsin	113	2001-2002
Wyoming	0	2000-2001
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,652</b>	

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Editor's Note: The documents that are attached to this news release are available online or by calling the Office of Public Affairs at 202-401-1576.