



COMMISSION ON  
NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND  
THE ASPEN INSTITUTE  
[www.nclbcommission.org](http://www.nclbcommission.org)

## **Summary of Outreach and Research Activities by The Commission on No Child Left Behind**

The Commission on No Child Left Behind has listened to the experiences of practitioners, community members and parents on the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) with the purpose of developing recommendations on how the law can be improved. The Commission created and participated in a public process that opened the door to a deep and diverse influx of comments, feedback and ideas from across the country. The Commission collected and analyzed extensive research to deepen our understanding of the successes and challenges of the law.

### ***Public Hearings Gave Light to Critical Issues in NCLB***

The Commission held six national hearings, taking testimony from 46 witnesses and hearing diverse perspectives on the law from many audience participants. While some of the witnesses testified as individuals, many testified on behalf of hundreds, thousands and even millions of people affected by the law. Hearing topics included teacher quality, standards, testing, accountability, school improvement and student options.

### ***Public Roundtables Provided In-Depth Discussions on Key Issues***

We also held six roundtable discussions in Washington, DC, taking testimony from 33 witnesses and hearing from many audience participants. Like at the hearings, some of the roundtable witnesses testified as individuals, while others testified on behalf of hundreds, thousands and even millions of people affected in some way by the law. Roundtable topics addressed how NCLB affects parents and community organizations, English language learners, children with disabilities, rural schools, high schools and early childhood education.

### ***Site Visits, Small Group Meetings and School and District Profiles Provided a Closer Look***

We visited schools in California, Connecticut and Georgia and talked with teachers and administrators about how NCLB affects their schools. We held two informal group meetings, one that brought together Wisconsin principals to discuss NCLB and another that enabled Massachusetts students to voice their opinions about the law. To further deepen the breadth and depth of perspectives on the law, we developed a series of profiles that examine experiences in schools and districts in New York City, New Mexico, Pennsylvania and Montana.

### ***Web Site Offered Additional Insights From Thousands***

Through our Web site, we collected stories, concerns and suggestions from people across the country—parents, students, teachers, administrators, researchers, community members—who have been affected in some way by NCLB. We received more than 10,000 e-mail submissions.

### ***Research and Evaluation Offered Further Understanding of the Law***

To deepen our understanding of the issues around the law, we held conversations with experts and collected and analyzed evidence on NCLB from a wide range of research and evaluation reports. The Commission staff has issued three white papers that address achievement gaps and growth models in the context of NCLB and how students with disabilities and English language learners affect AYP determinations.

Witness testimony, hearing summary reports, white papers and other information on the Commission are available on our Web site: [www.nclbcommission.org](http://www.nclbcommission.org).