

U.S. Secretary of Education Visits Alaska for Updates on NCLB

By Nihit Aurora

U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings visited Nome and Anchorage as part of her continuing tour of Alaska schools to meet with students and discuss their achievements under the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). Additionally, she observed classrooms and met with education administrators statewide. Senators Ted Stevens and Lisa Murkowski accompanied Secretary Margaret Spellings on the Alaska tour.

Spellings said that she saw some of the challenges that educators face in Alaska but also observed that Alaska's students and schools have made considerable progress. She reiterated that her department is committed to helping the students of Alaska improve and making NCLB more flexible and practicable.

Spellings and Senators Stevens and Murkowski began their tour with a visit to Nome Elementary School in Nome. They observed that the students there have made considerable improvements under the NCLB Act and are approaching the goal of reading and doing math on grade level by 2014. Additionally, preliminary results show that there has been an increase of about 20% in the number of students learning on grade level.

Spellings and Murkowski also visited Anchorage to tour schools. They participated in an all-school assembly at Creekside Park Elementary School. At this school, there has been a 10% improvement in the number of students reading on grade level since 2003.

On the final day of their tour, Spellings and Murkowski visited East High School's Partners for Success program. The Partners for Success program is designed to reduce school-dropout rates of native Alaskan middle and high school students using a variety of innovative methods. Secretary Spellings also named Art LaRue the 2007 American Star of Teaching from Alaska. LaRue is an eight-grade language arts teacher from Clark Middle School in Anchorage.

ON THE NET

Secretary Spellings Joins Senators Murkowski and Stevens to Discuss No Child Left Behind with Alaska Students, Teachers and Administrators
www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2007/08/08302007.html

Spellings Visits Alaska, Discusses NCLB
www.hewi.net