

*A journal of opinion, research, and farce*

## Secretary Duncan Unveils New, Improved NCLB

Education Secretary Duncan has announced that the Obama administration's signature education policy will move America beyond the failures of the Bush era. Striking a bold stance, he declared that both the logo *and* the color scheme of the new NCLB would be revised.

Secretary Duncan also explained that the new education goal is to improve the test scores of all the children by an arbitrary amount each year, rather than to improve those test scores above an arbitrary annual threshold. Growth modeling, he explained, offers a technological solution to his having to address the fundamental failure of the NCLB approach.

Presenting details of the pending change from the nation's old education policy in favor of one that will look very different at first glance, he promised to "significantly slow the rate" of the increase in the education gap.

The Duncan policy will require all children who are left behind to raise their test scores by 3 percent per year until such a time as they graduate or retire. "Kids might need books, qualified teachers, healthy facilities, and medical care," said an official who requested anonymity, "but that's no excuse for them to believe that they can't be the best that they can be down there at the bottom."

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## ARSE Gives Teacher Quality Rankings First Place

The respected group, Absurd Ratings of Schooling Endeavours (ARSE), has given the coveted "F-" rank to the National Council on Teacher Quality. The F- is actually the highest rating given by the promotion-of-ridiculous-ratings organization, an approach it adopted when it discovered the direct relationship between negative ratings and increased media coverage. "The research evidence is clear that the only way to ensure success is by pronouncing failure," said ARSE director Rose Bumm.

"It's all part of the game," said Bumm. "We do our part by assigning the eye-catching grades, and they [the press] run the story. It's win-win. And nobody does it better than our friends at the

NCTQ."

The deciding factor in favour of the NCTQ, which advocates innovative ways of undermining teacher education, was that their rankings gave no state a grade higher than a C-. "They simply did the best job of arbitrary castigation," said Bumm.

In a world where any two people with a 501(c)(3) and a press release can issue grades that advocate their vested interest, ARSE was formed to assure quality control. ARSE standards demand a combination of non-comparable measures, arbitrary weights, and narrow and invalid measures.

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