

# *Left Behind: An “F” for Education*

*New York City Shortchanged \$2 Billion After 4 Years Under  
The No Child Left Behind Act*



Prepared by:  
The Office of  
Congressman Anthony D. Weiner

January 29, 2006

## **Executive Summary**

When President Bush signed the *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) into law in January 2002, he struck a deal with local schools districts. In return for their agreement to adopt a new regimen of standardized testing – and to sanction schools that failed to meet new federal standards – the federal government would provide school districts with the funds necessary to ensure this new promise of a better education.

New York City schools have tried to hold up their end of the bargain. The President and Republicans in Congress have not.

Just months after signing the *No Child Left Behind Act* into law, President Bush submitted a budget to Congress which underfunded implementation of the law by billions of dollars. Every year since its passage, President Bush and the Republican-controlled Congress have failed to provide the funds the law's own formulas says schools districts are due. States are forced to use their own scarce funds to try and make up the difference, even as the NCLB law states that "*nothing in this Act shall be construed to... mandate a State or any subdivision thereof to spend any funds or incur any costs not paid for under this Act.*"

### **What does this mean for New York?**

When President Bush signed the FY2006 education appropriations bill into law in December 2005, he continued a tradition of shortchanging New York City, ensuring that our schools will be shortchanged over **\$1.9 billion less** than was authorized in the NCLB Act. In particular, New York City has missed out on:

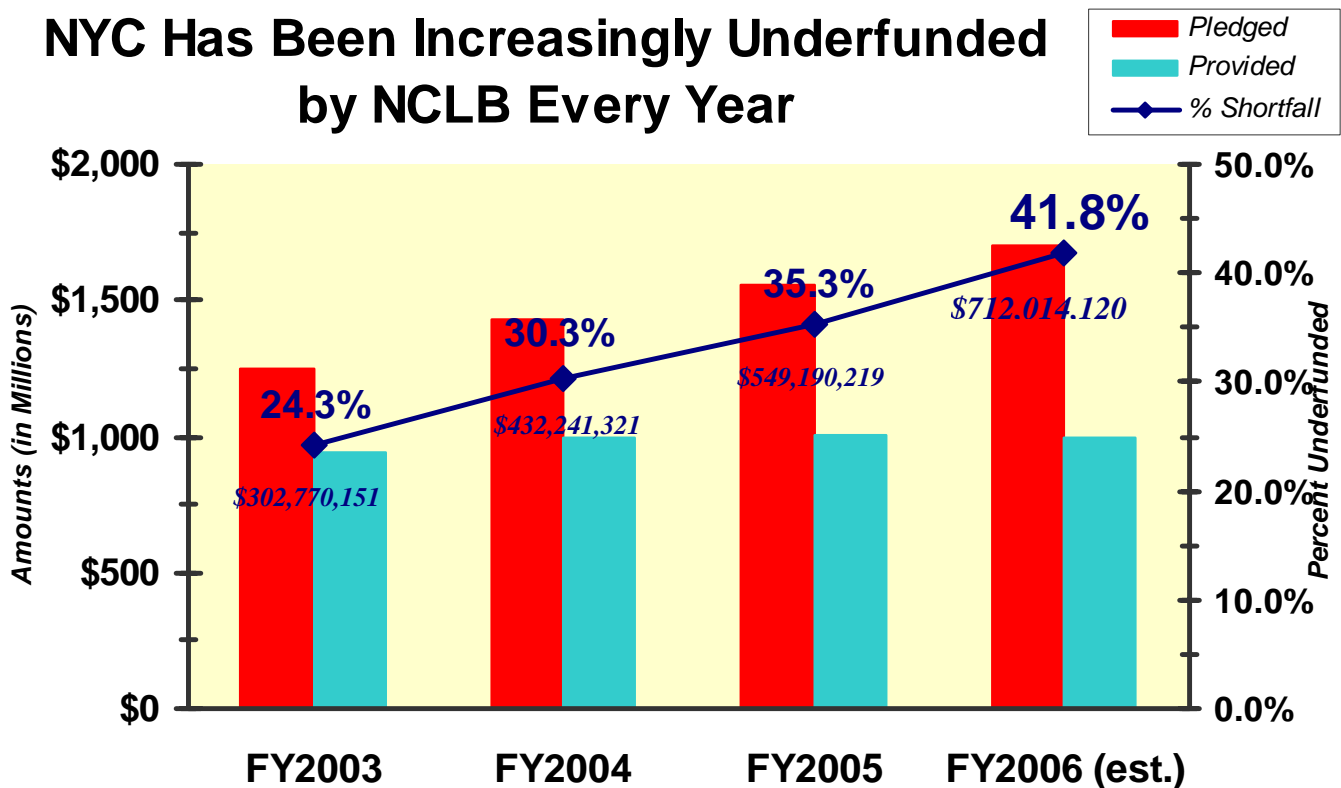
- \$1.8 billion less than authorized in Title I-A funding to assist disadvantaged students
- \$67.8 million less than authorized in State Technology grants to upgrade and improve student resources
- \$45.5 million less than authorized in Title V education grant monies designed to encourage innovation in education
- \$45.9 million less than authorized in Teacher Quality funding to help NYC teachers meet the higher standards required of them by NCLB
- \$12.5 million less than authorized in Title III funding to support bilingual education

**The Republican Reality of *No Child Left Behind* risks the futures of the more than 1 million children attending New York City schools.** On January 20<sup>th</sup>, the New York State Department of Education announced that 15 additional schools have been added to the list of, now, 61 schools statewide at risk of losing their registration; 40 of these troubled schools are in New York City.

***The shortfall in federal education funding for New York City under NCLB has increased every year, totaling over \$1.9 billion in FY2006.***

*No Child Left Behind* uses formulas based on a school district's student population and poverty concentration to determine how much funding the district should receive for Title I-A, a program designed to assist disadvantaged students. Title I-A funding accounts for about 55% of all federal education funding under NCLB. However, a school district's funding for several other NCLB programs is linked by different formulas to the amount the district receives via the Title I-A Program. **From FY2003 through FY2006, New York City was underfunded a total of \$1.9 billion for Title I-A, Title III, Title V, Teacher Quality and State Technology grants, the 5 major NCLB programs.**

**NYC Has Been Increasingly Underfunded by NCLB Every Year**

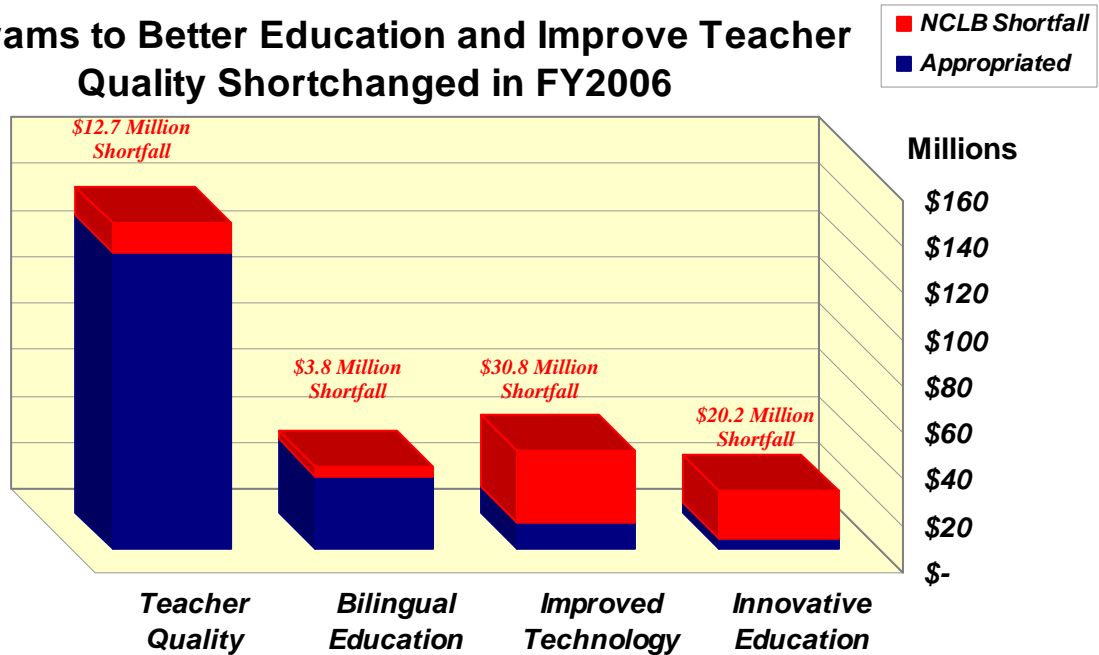


Annual total underfunding of Title I-A, Title III, Title V, Teacher Quality and State Technology funding for NYC, FY2003 through FY2006 (est.)  
 Source: NYC Department of Education

*New York City education programs designed to help disadvantaged students and English Language Learners, improve teacher quality and encourage technology and innovation in schools have been particularly affected.*

If a school district does not meet the mandated higher standards of NCLB, it may lose its Title I-A funding and its funding for all linked programs. Yet, even as NCLB ties continued federal education funding to a school district's higher test scores and increasing the number of qualified teachers, federal appropriators continue to shortchange Teacher Quality and other educational programs that are used to increase skills and fulfill the new mandates.

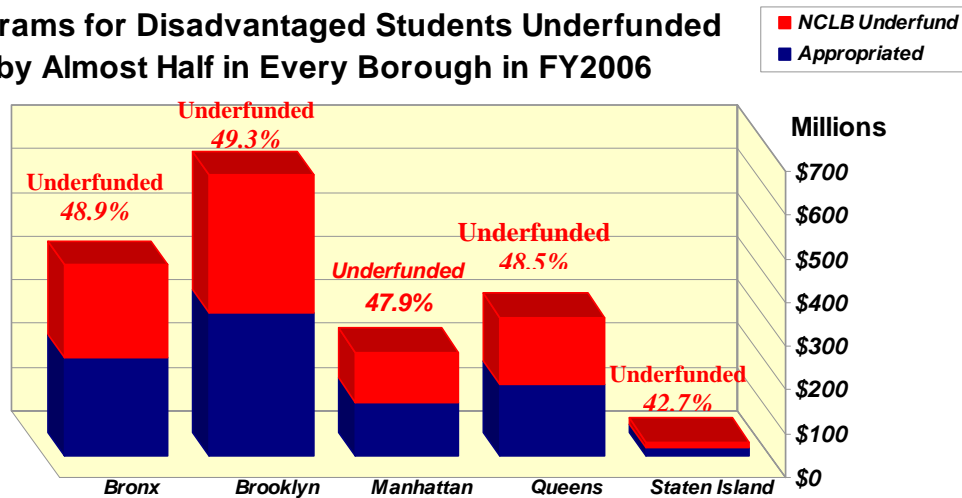
**Programs to Better Education and Improve Teacher Quality Shortchanged in FY2006**



Estimated FY2006 underfunding of major NCLB programs in NYC  
Source: New York City Department of Education

Title I-A funding for every borough in New York City has been underfunded in FY2006, decreasing the single largest source of borough-specific federal education funding by almost half.

**Programs for Disadvantaged Students Underfunded by Almost Half in Every Borough in FY2006**



Estimated FY2006 Underfunding of Title I-A Program by NYC county  
Source: Congressional Research Service

## **Methodology**

### *Executive Summary:*

- Information detailing requirements of NCLB and historical accounts of Presidential budget requests and Congressional appropriations for NCLB provided by the Congressional Research Service.
- Estimated FY2006 appropriations for NYC provided by New York City Department of Education.
- Information regarding legal questions surrounding NCLB appropriation shortfalls provided by the National Education Association.
- Listing of NYS and NYC Schools Under Registration Review provided by New York State Board of Regents.

### *Report:*

- Title I-A mission and federal appropriations information provided by the Congressional Research Service.
- New York City authorization, appropriation and NCLB shortfall estimates for all years provided by New York City Department of Education.
- New York City authorization, appropriation and NCLB shortfall estimates for all years for Title III, Title V, State Technology and Teacher Quality provided by New York City Department of Education.
- New York City FY2006 county-level estimates for Title I-A provided by the Congressional Research Service.