

Castle Celebrates Fourth Anniversary of No Child Left Behind with U.S. Deputy Secretary of Education at Frankford Elementary School -- January 11, 2006

Frankford, DE -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle today helped celebrate the fourth anniversary of No Child Left Behind with U.S. Deputy Secretary of Education, Ray Simon at Frankford Elementary School in Frankford Delaware. The two men, along with Delaware Deputy Secretary of Education Nancy Wilson, Frankford Elementary Principal Duncan Smith and Indian River School District Superintendent Lois Hobbs visited with second and fifth graders in their classrooms to see the students at work.

"Unlike any other law, I have followed the implementation of NCLB not only year-to-year, but day-to-day. It is rewarding to be able to stand here to mark the law's anniversary with great pride in what it has accomplished. For example, the achievement of young students has risen since 2002. According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), in 2005, America's fourth graders posted the best reading and math scores in the test's history. According to NAEP, African-American and Hispanic fourth graders set records in both reading and math scores.

"Additionally, Delaware has made incredible strides, and ranks among the top states in student progress. On the NAEP, Delaware has moved from the lower tier of states in 1992 to well above the national average in 2005. At the elementary school level, the state has marked the nation's highest reading gains over that period. More importantly, Delaware has also outpaced the nation in closing the achievement gap, especially among African American and low-income students'.

"There is evidence to suggest the law is working, and I am therefore committed to protecting its intent, which is to ensure that every child is assured a quality education. I think it is important that in the next year, we work with Deputy Secretary Simon, and educators in DE, to highlight the law's successes by holding hearings. This will also provide a forum for those who believe that there should be changes. Based on what we know, we cannot abandon NCLB - we must work to ensure it's working for students in Delaware and across the country," Castle said about the program.