

## **What Title I Regulations Require in Regard to Scientifically Based Research**

The *No Child Left Behind* Act was signed into law on January 8, 2002 by President Bush.

In the new law, *No Child Left Behind*, the phrase “scientifically based research” appears one hundred and eleven times. The new law states that Title I programs must “use effective methods and instructional strategies that are based on scientifically based research that strengthens the core academic program of the school” (section 1115, c (1) c). Clearly, the new law requires educators to use research to guide planning and instruction.

### **What is Scientifically Based Research?**

When an instructional program or practice is based on scientifically based research, there must be consistent and reliable evidence that the particular program or practice has been proven effective in raising academic achievement.

The basis behind SBR is that some schools have been implementing lessons, materials, and curriculum that have been proven ineffective. In response to this, the federal government has addressed this issue through the *No Child Left Behind* Act (NCLB). NCLB requires that instructional materials or programs used in schools must have an SBR base that proves that the materials or programs have had a positive impact on student performance or have raised academic achievement.

### **What Does This Mean for Title I?**

- ♦ All Title I programs, both targeted assistance and schoolwide, must use instructional strategies and methods that have been proven by scientifically based research to have a positive impact on student performance.
- ♦ All schools that receive Title I funds must provide documentation as to how the programs and strategies they employ are based on scientifically based research.
- ♦ Title I paid staff that provide instruction in reading and/or math, as well as all staff teaching reading and/or math in a schoolwide program, must use instructional strategies and methods that are based on scientifically based research.