

## (October 2, 2007) Lipinski Gathers Local Educators to Discuss NCLB Act

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Recommended Changes to the No Child Left Behind Act

Rep. Lipinski Brings Education Committee Member Danny Davis

to Hear from School District Leaders

Reps. Lipinski and Davis hear testimony from panel of superintendents and principals

WESTERN SPRINGS, IL - Rep. Dan Lipinski hosted a hearing at Lyons Township High School to discuss the changes local educators would like to see made in the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. Rep. Danny Davis (IL-07), a member of the House Education and Labor Committee which has jurisdiction over the legislation, also attended the hearing at the request of Lipinski. The House of Representatives is currently beginning debate on reauthorizing the Act which expires next year.

"As Congress works toward reauthorizing the No Child Left Behind Act, I believe it is essential to hear from local educators and school administrators about changes that are needed to make the law work best for local schools and our children," stated Lipinski. "This hearing provided a productive exchange of ideas that will help me as we begin the debate in the House."

The No Child Left Behind Act is a federal law that, among other things, intends to hold local school systems accountable by measuring students' scores on standardized math and reading tests. Most of the law's provisions are set to expire at the end of 2008. The House Education and Labor Committee is currently holding hearings as it considers legislation to amend and extend authorization of this law.

Numerous local school superintendents and principals from the 3rd District testified at the hearing, including Dr. Dennis Kelly of Lyons School District 204, Dr. Frank Stout of Argo Community-Summit School District 217, Mr. Thomas Hurlburt of Brookfield-LaGrange Park School District 95, Fred Wagner of Burbank School District 111, Mark VanClay of LaGrange School District 102, Mike Reardon of Oak Lawn Community School District 229, Ms. Kathleen McCord of Oak Lawn-Hometown School District 123, Dr. James Steyskal of Reavis High School District 220, Dr. Thomas Smyth of Ridgeland School District 122, and Mr. Frank Patrick of Willow Springs Consolidated School District 108.

"It is clear that changes must be made in the way that the law measures students' progress," stated Lipinski. "More flexibility is needed so that schools that are providing their students with a good education are recognized and those students who are not progressing are given more help."

This hearing was one of a series of events Rep. Lipinski is holding in the Third District to address ways to improve elementary and secondary education.

"As a former educator, I understand how important it is to provide a quality education for all of our young people," stated Lipinski. "Today the United States faces more competition from abroad than at any other time in its history. By improving our education system and preparing our children for the jobs of the future, we will ensure that America maintains its competitive and innovative edge in the world."