



For Immediate Release

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RECENT REPORT SHOWS NEED TO INCREASE STUDENT PERFORMANCE IN SCIENCE, REAUTHORIZE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

Washington, D.C. - U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY), Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (HELP Committee), today said urban fourth and eighth grade science assessment results, released today, stress the need to increase performance in science for all students nationally if America is to remain economically competitive in a global economy.

“The data from the Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA) clearly demonstrate that there is significant room for improvement in science education in our largest central cities as well as the nation as a whole,” Enzi said. “As we work to reauthorize No Child Left Behind (NCLB) next year, we must ensure that all of our students receive a quality science education. We must work to eliminate the achievement gap which affects children from low-income families and minority groups.”

The assessment results of 10 large, urban school districts that voluntarily participated in the 2005 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in science were released this morning. They show that students in these 10 districts scored at or below national public school averages in science. The assessment is the first to focus on urban student achievement in science. Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, NCLB requires states to assess student achievement in science at least once in each of three grade spans (3-5, 6-9, and 10-12) each year.

“I look forward to working with Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA) in the 110th Congress to address the issues raised by this report. Increasing the achievement of all students and closing the achievement gap are two of the cornerstones of NCLB,” Enzi added. “We must strengthen and focus America’s education and training systems to ensure students have the knowledge and skills to stay competitive in today’s global economy, and supply the nation with the mathematicians, scientists, engineers, and researchers it needs.”

TUDA is a collaboration among the National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment Governing Board, and the Council of Great City Schools and is

funded by Congress. The 10 districts voluntarily participating in the 2005 NAEP Science Assessment were: Atlanta, Austin, Boston, Charlotte, Chicago, Cleveland, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, City, and San Diego.

The full report can be found at: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/pubs/dst2005/2007453.asp>

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