

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 31, 2005

The Honorable Margaret Spellings  
Secretary of Education  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary Spellings:

We are very concerned about recent news reports that the Department of Education is refusing to publish the results from the National Literacy Panel's study on bilingual education. This study was commissioned to evaluate existing research on bilingual education through the lens of the scientifically-based research standard that the administration and Congress have made a core principle of the No Child Left Behind Act.


The study could not come at a better time. Schools are struggling to meet No Child Left Behind's Adequate Yearly Progress measures, and many of their greatest challenges have to do with the instruction and assessment of limited English proficient children. The problem has become so acute that you have appointed a special task force to address No Child Left Behind implementation issues for limited English proficient children. This study could provide some much needed direction for your task force as well as for school districts that are looking for research-based instructional strategies to improve the academic achievement of their limited English proficient students

The decision not to publish the report sends the message to schools nationwide that the Department is not serious about ensuring high quality, evidence-based instruction for limited English proficient children and that it is not committed to keeping the promise of No Child Left Behind for these students. We strongly urge you to reconsider this decision and to publish the findings of this important study.

Thank you and we await your prompt reply on this critical matter.

Sincerely,

  
Grace F. Napolitano  
Chair, Congressional Hispanic Caucus

  
Rubén Hinojosa  
Chair, Education Task Force