

## Schools may have lowered standards

by UPI

WASHINGTON -- Many U.S. states meet national No Child Left Behind requirements by holding students to relatively low standards, Gannett News Service reported Thursday.

The news service said that an analysis of test scores from different states often showed a wide gap between how students performed on the state achievement tests required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act and national assessment exams.

The widest gap in the nation was in Mississippi, where 89 percent of fourth-graders passed the state reading test in 2005 but only 18 percent passed the national test, Gannett reported.

"Ironically, No Child reforms may have the exact opposite effect they were intended to have," Bruce Fuller, an education and public policy professor at the University of California at Berkeley told Gannett.

He said the gap between students' performance on state and national tests has widened since the No Child Left Behind Act went into effect.

Gannett said federal officials would release a report Thursday that reached the same conclusions it did.  
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