

No Child Left Behind wounds academia

by UPI

MONTGOMERY, Md. - School Superintendent Jerry D. Weast of Montgomery, Md., says the Bush administration's No Child Left Behind law is making public education too easy.

Weast said the federal law has made it so leaders in education are "shooting way too low" and statewide tests are now too easy, the Washington Post reported Thursday.

Weast said that No Child Left Behind pushes for 100 percent proficiency on state tests, causing some states to lower their standards to the point where students are no longer prepared for colleges or careers.

"I think we've got to adjust up," he said. "Or at least give some flexibility for those who would like to adjust up."

Although Maryland is among the states praised for keeping their standards comparatively high, Weast said the state tests, including the Maryland School Assessment and the High School Assessment tests, measure only the smallest levels of academic ability.

This is because leaders in Maryland and most other states want their kids "to look good" on the tests, said Weast.

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