So What Do You Know?

Been boning up? Test your "No Child Left Behind" knowledge quotient.

1. "No Child Left Behind" is the new federal law that funds proven ways to improve student achievement, such as smaller classrooms, mentoring for new teachers, paid time for planning, and professional development for experienced teachers.
   T or F

2. The new federal education law tells states what their education priorities must be and how they are to achieve them. How much of the bill does the federal government pay?
   a. 8 %
   b. 30 %
   c. 50 %
   d. 70 %

3. The new federal law guarantees that every American child will read fluently by the year 2014.
   T or F

4. The California Department of Education recently projected the percentage of schools that would achieve the goal of "No Child Left Behind" by 2014. What percentage did the department predict?
   a. 95 %
   b. 70 %
   c. 40 %
   d. 2 %

5. High stakes testing, the central feature of NCLB, is a proven strategy for boosting student achievement.
   T or F

6. Outside groups paid with federal money to provide tutoring to students in "failing" schools will be forbidden to discriminate on the basis of race, ethnic group, or religion.
   T or F

7. The new federal law requires all aides paid under Title I to have two years of college.
   T or F

8. The new federal law supercedes collective bargaining agreements that regulate, for example, involuntary transfers and reassignments.
   T or F

9. Under "No Child Left Behind," who decides how well a student must read in order to be called "proficient"?
   a. The federal government.
   b. The state
c. The school district
d. parents
e. Teachers.

10. Students in schools that don't reach state standards will be able to go to private schools using federal vouchers.
    T or F

FROM: http://www.nea.org/neatoday/0305/cover.html
Answers to quiz from "So What do You Know"

1. **False.** The law promises increased federal funding, but so far that promise hasn't been kept. The main focus of the law is on mandates, not money--punishing schools for low scores, not helping them do better.

2. **a.**

3. **False.** It only punishes educators if some children don't.

4. **d.**

5. **False.** A recent study of the actual experience of states that have adopted high-stakes testing shows there is very little effect on achievement in either direction. Scores on the high-stakes tests themselves went up, but scores on other tests measuring the same academic areas did not--a sign that students were getting better at taking the high-stakes tests but not actually learning more than before.

6. **False.** The law says federal civil rights laws apply, but the Department of Education's regulations say outside groups are exempt because the money is passed through local school districts. So while school districts are appropriately prohibited from discriminating, private groups that actually use the money are not. This will likely be settled in court.

7. **False.** The academic competence requirement applies only to paraprofessionals with instructional duties, and it allows for state or local assessments as an alternative to college credentials.

8. **False.** Collective bargaining agreements continue in full force.

9. **b.** Each state sets its own standard.

10. **False.** Voucher proposals were defeated in Congress. The law allows students at schools with low scores to transfer to other public schools, not private schools.

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