

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Bush Administration Proposes to Eliminate Vital Education Programs**  
*Regional Education Labs & Comprehensive School Reform*  
*Targeted for Elimination*

**Statement of NEKIA President Jim Kohlmoos**

“Among the cornerstones of the Bush Administration’s No Child Left Behind education initiative is the mandate for use of scientifically based research in the classroom. Unfortunately, the President’s new budget proposes to eliminate two programs essential to that mandate: the Regional Education Labs and the Comprehensive School Reform program. These programs create sorely needed education knowledge and tools that states and school districts use to implement No Child Left Behind.

“The National Education Knowledge Industry Association (NEKIA) is very disappointed by the proposed eliminations, which total \$271 million (\$66 million appropriated for the labs in FY2005 and \$205 million appropriated for Comprehensive School Reform). These programs are helping teachers, administrators and state and local policy leaders nationwide. The eliminations come at a time when funding for education research is already at deplorably low levels. In fact, the federal investment in the U.S. Department of Education’s research and development programs is the lowest of any federal agency.

“We are pleased that the Administration proposes to maintain funding at last year’s levels for both the research and development account (\$164 million appropriated in FY2005) as well as the Comprehensive Assistance Centers (\$57 million appropriated in FY2005), which provide vital support for the technical implementation of No Child Left Behind. However, given the increased demands for these programs, the Administration’s proposals are inadequate. Funding should be significantly increased.

“In the months ahead, NEKIA and its members will work closely with Congress to ensure all federal investments in education research, development, dissemination, and technical assistance are fully supported to the benefit of children and teachers.”

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