

The Federal Government and Public Education, 1955-Present



1957 - National Defense and Education Act passed after Soviets launch Sputnik



1975 - Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) passed, guaranteeing Students with disabilities access to Equal Educational opportunities.



2001 - President George W. Bush signs "No Child Left Behind" into law. Requires schools receiving federal funding to administer state standardized tests in grades 3-12.

1955 1960 1965 1970 1975 1980 1985 1990 1995 2000 2005 2010

1965 – President Johnson launches his War on Poverty, and signs into law the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Title I funding begins for schools serving low income students.



LBJ signing bill in front of one room school house he attended

1983 – National Commission on Education releases its report – "A Nation at Risk." Calls for higher standards and more standardized testing so that the U.S. will be better able to compete globally.



2009 – Obama administration launches Race to the Top, a contest that allowed winning states to receive additional federal funding if they implemented certain reforms such as tying teacher evaluations to test score results.

