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## **No Child Left Behind stirring up formal resistance in several states**

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### EDUCATION

Is a No Child Left Behind rebellion under way?

Could be, according to a report scheduled to be released Wednesday.

The report by the **Civil Society Institute**, an advocacy group in Massachusetts, found stages of organized revolt in 47 states – including Ohio – that will most likely gain momentum during the coming school year.

The report found that legislative challenges to President Bush's far-reaching education reform law have already taken place in three states, Colorado, Connecticut and Utah. Colorado eased penalties for schools; Connecticut authorized a lawsuit and Utah authorized officials to ignore rules that conflict with its own policies.

The biggest hot spots during the coming school year? Keep an eye on Minnesota, Maine, Nevada, New Jersey and Virginia, the report says.

Smooth exit: When it comes to exit exams, Ohio gets an "A."

That's according to a study to be released today by the Center on Education Policy. The center surveyed all 25 states that give exit exams – tests students have to pass to graduate.

The study found that Ohio is one of just four states to release all questions and responses after the test is given, as a study tool for future test-takers. It's also one of 15 states to provide practice exit exams to students.

The state is also given high marks for "pushing down" course content by teaching advanced topics in lower grades to help students prepare for the test.

The center congratulated the state for concentrating exam preparation money on students whose practice exams signal that they might struggle on the real test. In the last fiscal year, the state spent \$5.9 million for extra tutoring for ninth- and 10th-graders.

Last year's sophomore class is the first required to pass the new Ohio Graduation Test by the end of their senior year. Students were given the test in March.

Here today, gone tomorrow: Researchers warn that teacher attrition is killing Ohio and other states.

The Alliance for Excellent Education says that when Ohio's school year begins this fall, almost 17,000 teachers will not be returning to schools in which they taught last year.

Replacing them will cost the state more than \$206 million.

“Ohio is to be commended for requiring and financing mentoring for all novice teachers,” said former West Virginia Gov. Bob Wise, president of the alliance. “However, research tells us that new teachers need more than mentoring alone.”

Wise said a comprehensive program designed specifically to retain high-quality teachers and give veteran teachers new challenges is needed.

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