

State schools far short of No Child Left Behind target

'Adequate' progress at only 52% as federal standards are raised

California schools

9,832

Number of public schools in the state

5,113

Schools — 52% — that made "adequate" progress this year under the No Child Left Behind Act

1,027

School districts in state

400

Districts — 39% — that made "adequate" progress this year

2,241

Schools in an improvement program for failing to make adequate progress two years in a row

116

Schools that left the program this year by raising scores

Source: California Department of Education

By Nanette Asimov
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

California schools, required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act to lift more students over a higher academic hurdle this year, instead stumbled and slipped back, as nearly 1,400 fewer schools met test-score targets.

The number of schools making "adequate yearly progress" plunged from 6,488 to 5,113 since last year, according to state educators who released school progress reports Thursday.

That's a drop from 67 to 52 percent of the state's public schools.

Officials said more schools faltered because No Child Left Behind requires a higher percentage of their students this year to have proficient scores in English and math on statewide exams — 35 percent of students this year from about 25 percent last year.

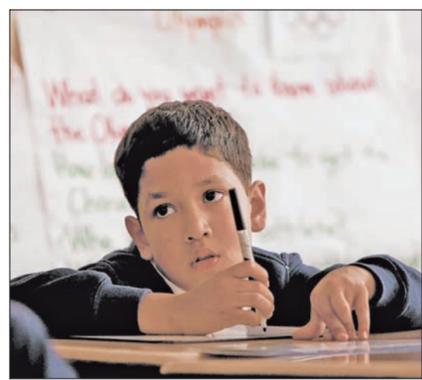
And it's only going to get tougher. The percentage of students who must do well on the tests will rise steadily each year until 2014, when all students will be required to score at the proficient level in English and math — hence the name "No Child Left Behind."

It could spell trouble for every school in the state.

"We know that if you're not over this bar now, it's going to become very difficult," said state Superintendent Jack O'Connell, adding that he has yet to see any school where all students score proficient in math and English.

The consequences for failing apply only to schools that accept federal Title I money for low-

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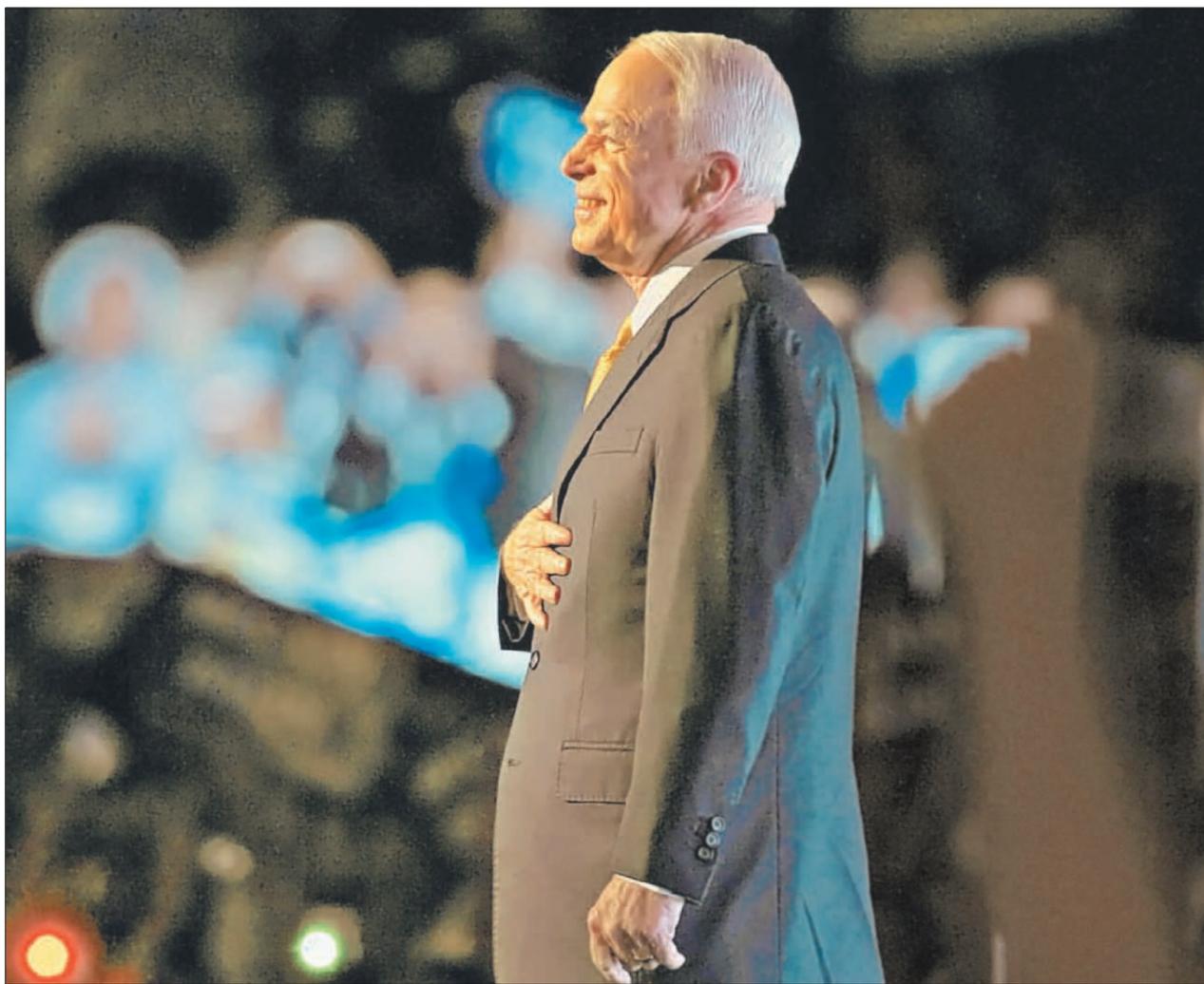
LACY ATKINS / The Chronicle

NUMBER CRUNCHING

Isaac Torres listens to a math problem in Lisa Staib's third-grade class at Monarch Academy in Oakland. The nationally recognized charter school has often improved its scores on state tests over the years, but this year it again fell just short of the "excellent" mark. **See story, A17**

MCCAIN'S PLEDGE: 'CHANGE IS COMING'

CONVENTION CLIMAX: Republican Party must get 'back to basics,' says presidential nominee



STAN HONDA / AFP / Getty Images

John McCain arrives on stage for the fourth and final day of the 2008 Republican National Convention at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul, Minn.

ANALYSIS: A bid to be seen as rising above party politics

By Carolyn Lochhead
CHRONICLE WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — Republican presidential nominee John McCain had to demonstrate Thursday night that he, not his new rock-star running mate, is at the top of his ticket. But he intends to be the anti-rock star of this race.

McCain painted himself as the authentic post-partisan, the proven leader who can rise above political warfare and deliver the change that his rival, Democratic nominee Barack Obama, promises.

In the process, he threw both political parties overboard. He acknowledged President Bush, but not by name, mentioning only the first lady, Laura Bush.

"We were elected to change Washington, and we let Washington change us. We lost the trust of the American people when some Republicans gave in to the temptations of corruption."

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INSIDE

► **In his own words:** Excerpts from the acceptance speech of Sen. John McCain. **A14**

► **'She's one of them':** At least for now, the choice of Gov. Sarah Palin seems to have energized the Republican base. **A15**

► **The Democrats:** Sen. Barack Obama says Republicans are attacking him at their convention to avoid talking about the problems voters care about, such as the sagging economy and the housing crisis. **A17**

WHAT'S NEXT

The Republicans: John McCain heads to Sterling Heights, Mich., for a "Road to Victory" campaign rally.

The Democrats: Barack Obama will hold a campaign rally in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

THE SPEECH: An attempt to move past the Bush era

By Carla Marinucci
CHRONICLE POLITICAL WRITER

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Republican Sen. John McCain — aiming to separate himself from his party's unpopular two-term president, George W. Bush — accepted the GOP presidential nomination Thursday by portraying himself as a maverick warrior and an agent of change who will "get this country back on the road to prosperity and peace."

"I fight to restore the pride and principles of our party," he told a cheering crowd of GOP delegates on the final night of the Republican National Convention in the Xcel Energy Center here.

"We were elected to change Washington, and we let Washington change us," he said. "We lost the trust of the American people when some Republicans gave in to the temptations of corruption. We lost their trust when rather than reform government, both parties made it bigger."

But, he promised, "we're going to change that." **► GOP:** Page A14

S.F.'s new Halloween party plan — bash at AT&T Park lot, not Castro

By Marisa Lagos
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

San Francisco's troubled Halloween party will be reborn at a parking lot near AT&T Park as a multicultural celebration that city officials hope will avoid the violence that has plagued past events.

City officials are still telling people to stay close to home and planning a zero-tolerance policy for public drunkenness and fighting. But they also are helping to sponsor a party that aims to replace the ad hoc Castro neighborhood event that has turned violent in recent years.

The party on Oct. 31, a Friday

Fright night

Tickets: Available online soon at sfhalloweenfestival.com.

Information: Learn more about events in San Francisco and around the Bay Area at homeforhalloween.com.

Volunteers: Organizers for the event near AT&T Park are looking for volunteers; contact Roberto Hernandez at latinzoneprod@aol.com.

Donations: To donate, contact Supervisor Bevan Dufty at (415) 554-6968 or Bevan.Dufty@sfgov.org.

evening, will begin as a free event for kids and will turn into a \$31-a-ticket festival for adults featuring performers such as Michelle Williams of Destiny's Child and Latin jazz musician Pete Escovedo. It will also include local artists, performers, food, DJs and other musicians.

The celebration, which is expected to draw up to 30,000 people, will coincide with smaller events in neighborhoods throughout the city. The idea is to spread out the impact of Halloween, which in the past has brought up to 100,000 people to the streets of the Castro for a celebration that had begun to

► **HALLOWEEN:** Page A12

NATION/WORLD

DETROIT'S MAYOR HEADED FOR JAIL

Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick pleads guilty to obstruction of justice and agrees to resign from office, serve 120 days in jail and pay the city \$1 million in restitution. The deal ends eight months of political turmoil stemming mainly from the revelation that the mayor had an extramarital affair — and his efforts to keep that affair secret. **A4**



BILL PUGLIANO / Getty Images

Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick agreed to resign after pleading guilty to obstruction.

HANNA KILLS 137 — IKE IS ON THE WAY

Tropical Storm Hanna's death toll hits 137 in Haiti. Hurricane Ike, a more dangerous Category 4 storm, advances from the east. **A3**

4-YEAR SENTENCE FOR ABRAMOFF

Former lobbyist Jack Abramoff, a central figure in a series of political scandals in Washington, is sentenced to four years in prison. **A4**

