

“Comprehensive School Reform: Research and Development at CRESPAR” was the title of a forum hosted April 17 at the Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI) in Washington.

Comprehensive, whole-school reform models have been developed, researched, and disseminated in thousands of schools in recent years, accelerated by the passage of the Obey-Porter Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration. That legislation provides substantial funding to help schools, mostly high-poverty Title I schools, adopt comprehensive programs with evidence of effectiveness. More than 1800 schools have received CSRD funds, in all 50 states.

The forum focused on the research and development on comprehensive school reform carried out at CRESPAR, an OERI-funded research center at Howard and Johns Hopkins Universities. Presenters included A. Wade Boykin and Velma LaPoint of Howard, and Robert Slavin and James McPartland of Johns Hopkins.

The occasion for the forum was the publication this spring of a double issue of the *Journal of Education for Students Placed at Risk* (JESPAR), an issue that examines the progress of CRESPAR and considers its directions for the future. The forum was hosted by OERI and Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc., publishers of JESPAR.

There are plans to publish the proceedings of the event. They will be available on the CRESPAR websites and by other means.