

**HD** Studies find NYC school 'grades' spur improvements

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**LP** NEW YORK (AP) - Preliminary studies show that Mayor Michael Bloomberg's new school accountability program that grades school performance on a scale from A through F has helped spur improvements in low-performing schools.

Columbia professor **Jonah Rockoff**, who conducted one of the studies, says kids whose schools received F's on their first assessment in 2007 improved substantially in subsequent state math and reading exams. He says the idea is that the failing grades motivated teachers to do better.

**TD** A second study, by Marcus Winters of the Manhattan Institute, finds that students in schools initially graded F fared better in math -- most of them fifth graders.

Under the program, schools that consistently receive F or a D grades can be shut down.

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Information from: New York Post, <http://www.nypost.com>

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