

Nevada Education QuickFACTS

A Pocket Guide to General Information
About Nevada's Public Education System



NEVADA DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

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NEVADA EDUCATION QUICKFACTS

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Nevada Department of Education
Internet Web Page: <http://www.doe.nv.gov>

**NEVADA STATE BOARD of EDUCATION
NEVADA STATE BOARD
for
OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION**

Members

Dr. Cliff Ferry [10], President
Marcia Washington [3], Vice President
Barbara Myers [9], Clerk Jan Biggerstaff [6]
Sharon Frederick [1] Dr. John Gwaltney [8]
Dr. Merv Iverson [7] Greg Nance [5]
Cindy Reid [4] Anthony Ruggiero [2]
Madisen McGrath (Student Representative)

[] = District represented

Dr. Keith Rheault
Superintendent of Public Instruction

District Representation

The State Board of Education is comprised of ten members and a non-voting student representative: seven of the ten members are elected from Clark, Lincoln, and Nye counties (Districts 1 through 7); one member is elected from Washoe County (District 8); and two members are elected from the remaining thirteen counties of the state (Districts 9 and 10). Members are elected on a non-partisan ballot for four-year terms and are limited to three consecutive terms.

NEVADA DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION
Organizational Structure

Keith Rheault
Superintendent of Public Instruction

Gloria Dopf, Deputy Superintendent
Instructional, Research and Evaluative Services

- Assessments, Program Accountability and Curriculum
Assessment
Program Accountability
Curriculum Development
- Career, Technical, and Adult Education
- Special Education, ESEA and School Improvement
Special Education
Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)
School Improvement
- Teacher Licensure
- Technology and Innovative Programs

James Wells, Deputy Superintendent
Administrative and Fiscal Services

- Child Nutrition and School Health
- Fiscal Accountability
- Fiscal Services
- Department Operations

NEVADA SCHOOL DISTRICTS and SUPERINTENDENTS

Carson City School District, Dr. Mary Pierczynski

P.O. Box 603, Carson City, NV 89702
Phone 775.283.2100 / FAX 775.283.2090

Churchill County School District, Dr. Carolyn Ross

545 East Richards Street, Fallon, NV 89406
Phone 775.423.5184 / FAX 775.423.2959

Clark County School District, Dr. Walt Rulffes

5100 West Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89121
Phone 702.799.5310 / FAX 702.799.5505

Douglas County School District, Mrs. Carol Lark

P.O. Box 1888, Minden, NV 89423
Phone 775.782.5134 / FAX 775.782.3162

Elko County School District, Mrs. Antoinette Cavanaugh

P.O. Box 1012, Elko, NV 89803
Phone 775.738.5196 / FAX 775.738.5857

Esmeralda County School District, Mr. Robert Aumaugher

P.O. Box 560, Goldfield, NV 89013
Phone 775.485.6382 / FAX 775.485.3511

Eureka County School District, Mr. Ben Zunino

P.O. Box 249, Eureka, NV 89316
Phone 775.237.5373 / FAX 775.237.5014

Humboldt County School District, Dr. Delbert Jarman

310 East Fourth Street, Winnemucca, NV 89445
Phone 775.623.8100 / FAX 775.623.8102

Lander County School District, Mr. Curtis Jordan

P.O. Box 1300, Battle Mountain, NV 89820
Phone 775.635-2886 / FAX 775.635.5347

NEVADA SCHOOL DISTRICTS and SUPERINTENDENTS
(Continued)

Lincoln County School District, Mr. Rick Hardy

P.O. Box 118, Panaca, NV 89042
Phone 775.728.4471 / FAX 775.728.4435

Lyon County School District, Mr. Nat Lommori

25 East Goldfield Avenue, Yerington, NV 89447
Phone 775.463.6800 / FAX 775.463.6808

Mineral County School District, Mr. Steven Cook

P.O. Box 1540, Hawthorne, NV 89415
Phone 775.945.2403 / FAX 775.945.3709

Nye County School District, Dr. William (“Rob”) Roberts

P.O. Box 113, Tonopah, NV 89049
Phone 775.482.6258 / FAX 775.482.8573

Pershing County School District, Mr. Daniel Fox

P.O. Box 389, Lovelock, NV 89419
Phone 775.273.7819 / FAX 775.273.2668

Storey County School District, Dr. Robert (“Rob”) Slaby

P.O. Box C, Virginia City, NV 89440
Phone 775.847.0983 / FAX 775.847.0989

Washoe County School District, Mr. Paul Dugan

P.O. Box 30425, Reno, NV 89520-3425
Phone 775.348.0200 / FAX 775.348.0304

White Pine County School District, Mr. Robert Dolezal

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COMMON ABBREVIATIONS and ACRONYMS

ACT	American College Test
AFT	American Federation of Teachers
AYP	Adequate Yearly Progress (NCLB)
CSR	Class Size Reduction
CRT	Criterion-Referenced Test
DSA	Distributive School Account
ELL	English Language Learners
ESEA	Elementary and Secondary Education Act
ETS	Educational Testing Service
FAPE	Free Appropriate Public Education
FRL	Free and Reduced-Price Lunch (program)
GTE	Gifted and Talented Education
HSPE	High School Proficiency Examination
IDEA	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
IEP	Individualized Education Program
ITBS	Iowa Tests of Basic Skills
ITED	Iowa Tests of Educational Development
LEA	Local Education Agency (e.g., a Nevada school district)
LEP	Limited English Proficient
NASB	Nevada Association of School Boards
NASS	Nevada Association of School Superintendents
NCES	National Center for Education Statistics
NCLB	No Child Left Behind (Act)
NDE	Nevada Department of Education
NEA	National Education Association
NPEP	Nevada Proficiency Examination Program
NRT	Norm-Referenced Test
NSEA	Nevada State Education Association
SASI	School Administration Student Information
SAT	Scholastic Aptitude Test
SEA	State Education Association (e.g., NDE)

THE “NEVADA PLAN”

Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 387.121 Guaranteed per Student Level of Financial Support Summary (Emphasized) and Full Statute

“The legislature declares ... objective of state financial aid ... **ensure each Nevada child** [receives] a **reasonably equal educational opportunity** ... **Recognizing** wide **local variation in wealth and costs per pupil** ... state should **supplement local financial ability** ... in each school district to provide programs of instruction ... that offer full opportunity ... to receive the benefit of the purposes for which public schools are maintained ... **state’s financial obligation** ... **expressed in formula** partially on a **per pupil basis** and partially on a **per program basis** ...”

NRS 387.121 Legislative Declaration; Nevada Plan. The legislature declares that the proper objective of state financial aid to public education is to ensure each Nevada child a reasonably equal educational opportunity. Recognizing wide local variations in wealth and costs per pupil, this state should supplement local financial ability to whatever extent necessary in each school district to provide programs of instruction in both compulsory and elective subjects that offer full opportunity for every Nevada child to receive the benefit of the purposes for which public schools are maintained. Therefore, the quintessence of the state’s financial obligation for such programs can be expressed in a formula partially on a per pupil basis and partially on a per program basis as: State financial aid to school districts equals the difference between school district basic support guarantee and local available funds produced by mandatory taxes minus all the local funds attributable to pupils who reside in the county but attend a charter school. This formula is designated the Nevada Plan.

NEVADA EDUCATION FUNDING SOURCES

Nevada Plan – State Distributive School Account Funding

1. State General Fund
2. Out-of-State Local School Support Tax (2.25%)
3. Annual Slot Machine Tax (portion)
4. Federal Mineral Lease Revenue
5. Estate/Inheritance Tax
6. Interest from Permanent School Fund

Nevada Plan – Local Funding

1. Local School Support Tax (2.25%)
2. Property Tax (1/3 Public Schools Operating Property Tax)

Non-Nevada Plan – Local “Outside” Funding

1. Property Tax (2/3 Public Schools Operating Property Tax)
2. Governmental Services Tax
3. Franchise Fees
4. Unrestricted Federal Revenue – Impact Aid
5. Interest, Tuition, and Other Local Revenue
6. Opening General Fund Balance

Class Size Reduction (CSR) Program Funds

1. State General Funds

Capital Projects/Debt Service

1. General Obligation Bonds
2. Property/Mining Tax Assessments
3. “Pay-as-You-Go” Financing Programs

NEVADA EDUCATION FUNDING SOURCES
(Continued)

Special Revenue Funds

1. ESEA – No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act*
2. Nutrition Education
3. Special Education Programs
4. Occupational Education
5. Federal Portion – Class Size Reduction
6. State/Federal School Improvement

* Titles I, II, III, IV, and V

Funding Shared by State, Local, Federal (Typical)

1. State 40%
2. Local 55%
3. Federal 5%

Funding Breakout by Category (Typical)

1. Sales Taxes	50.0%
2. Property Taxes	19.0%
3. Gaming Taxes	15.0%
4. Federal Programs	5.0%
5. Estate Tax	0.7%
6. Mining Tax	0.3%
7. Other Revenue Sources	10.0%

NEVADA EDUCATION PROGRAMS
(Listed by Budget Account (B/A) Descriptions)

Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities (B/A 2605) – Federal funds provided by Title IV, Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities (SDFSC), establishing drug abuse education programs (alcohol, tobacco, and drugs).

Student Incentive Grant Program (B/A 2606) – Provides grants to eligible students who attend post-secondary schools and have substantial financial need.

Distributive School Account (DSA) (B/A 2610) – Provides direct state financial aid to public education to both local school districts and charter schools according to the "Nevada Plan". The DSA encompasses programs for kindergarten through grade 12 (K-12) as well as class-size reduction funding, special education and gifted and talented programs.

Comprehensive School Health Education/Aids Prevention (B/A 2611) – Federally-funded program to establish and expand school district programs for preventing HIV/AIDS and sexually-transmitted diseases.

School Remediation Trust Fund (B/A 2615) – Funds programs to improve the achievement of students and help schools meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) mandated by No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

Education State Programs (B/A 2673) – Provides resources to fulfill educational responsibilities as required by the Nevada Constitution and Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS), Title 34, Chapters 385 through 395.

Occupational Education (B/A 2676) – Facilitates applications for federal funding under the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act.

GEAR UP (B/A 2678) – Collaborative effort of the Governor's Office, Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE), NDE, AT&T, Wells Fargo Bank, eight school districts and other stakeholders to assist low-achieving and economically-disadvantaged students to become better prepared for college.

NEVADA EDUCATION PROGRAMS (Continued)

Continuing Education (B/A 2680) – Federal funding for the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act providing adult basic education and English as a second language services (ABE/ESL).

Child Nutrition/Nutrition Education (B/A 2691) – Distributes federal funds for nutrition programs under National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Special Milk Program (SMP), Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), and Nutrition Education and Training Program (NETP).

Proficiency Testing (B/A 2697) – Funds several testing programs to include Norm-Referenced Tests (NRTs), Nevada Education Reform Act high school diploma testing, Writing Assessments as part of the Nevada Proficiency Examination Program, Nevada High School Proficiency Examination (HSPE), National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP), Criterion-Referenced Tests (CRTs), as well as support of the Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public Schools.

Other State Education Programs (B/A 2699) – Funds State, school district, and other programs, such as the State Apprenticeship Program, SAIN (State student accountability program), vocational student organizations, new teacher signing bonus incentive program, and GAIN (Geographic Alliance in Nevada).

Teacher Education and Licensing (B/A 2705) – Funds implementation and enforcement of teacher standards adopted by the Commission on Professional Standards in Education.

Discretionary Grants-Unrestricted (B/A 2706) – Includes federal grants: (1) Public Charter Schools Program; (2) Federal Class Size Reduction; (3) National Cooperative Statistics; (4) NAEP Task Order for Administering the National Assessment of Education Program; (5) Character Education; and (6) Learn and Serve America.

NEVADA EDUCATION PROGRAMS (Continued)

Federal Discretionary Grants (B/A 2709) – Includes federal grants: (1) Homeless Children Project; (2) Title III, Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient (LEP) and Immigrant Students Program; (3) Robert C. Byrd Scholarship Program; (4) Refugee School Impact Grant; (5) 21st Century Community Learning Centers; and (6) Advance Placement Fee Payment Programs.

ESEA, Title I (NCLB) (B/A 2712) – Title I of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, P.L. 107-110, Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act provides federal assistance to improve instructional programs for educationally disadvantaged students. Programs include Title I Basic, Migrant, Neglected or Delinquent, Even Start, Comprehensive School Reform, Reading First, Program Improvement.

ESEA, Titles II, V, VI (B/A 2713) – Federal NCLB funding to assist state and local educational agencies to improve programs in reducing the drop-out rate, increasing student achievement including emphasis in mathematics and science, the acquisition of instructional materials, training and professional development, innovative programs, teacher quality, educational technology, state assessment and related activities.

Individuals with Disabilities Act (B/A 2715) – Provides federal funding from the U.S. Department of Education for: (1) special education for ages 5-21; (2) early childhood special education for ages 3-5; and (3) training for teachers of students with disabilities.

Education Support Services (B/A 2720) – Includes NDE's grant accounting, reporting, auditing, accounts payable and receivable, payroll and personnel, budgeting, purchasing, networking and copying; funded by indirect costs charged against other budget accounts that have administrative expenditures.

**DISTRIBUTIVE SCHOOL ACCOUNT (DSA)
PRINCIPAL FUND CATEGORIES
General Fund Budget Account (B/A) 2610 (Work Programs)**

<u>Categories (Principal Ones)</u>	<u>FY2006</u>	<u>FY2007</u>
1. Basic Aid-to-Schools (DSA K-12) (Including Special Education Units)	\$800,436,074 (\$97,617,555)	\$971,435,785 (\$137,923,619)
2. Class-Size Reduction (CSR) Program	\$125,552,187	\$137,922,619
3. Gifted and Talented Units	\$203,808	\$250,676
4. Remediation At-Risk Students	\$6,818,788	\$7,089,336
5. Professional Development Centers (Includes Nevada Early Literacy Program)	\$10,332,421	\$10,513,671
6. Retirement Stipends-At Risk Schools	\$16,138,996	\$23,430,629
7. Retirement Stipends-Critical Positions	\$9,369,907	\$12,156,733
8. Early Childhood Education	\$3,032,172	\$3,152,479
9. Special Elementary Counseling Services	\$850,000	\$850,000
10. Retired Group Health Insurance	\$8,391,659	\$9,171,421
11. Adult High School Diploma Program (FY2007 Amount Includes \$1,947,561 for the Jean Facility in Clark County)	\$18,435,662	\$21,500,951
<u>Total DSA Funding/Budget</u>	<u>\$1,000,353,620</u>	<u>\$1,198,144,695</u>

DSA Share Analysis

a. Aid-to-Schools (DSA K-12) Share of DSA:	80.0%	81.1%
b. Class-Size Reduction Program Share:	12.6%	11.5%
c. Remaining Programs' Share:	7.4%	7.4%

NEVADA PLAN GUARANTEE

Determination of DSA Basic Support Guarantee per Student

The “Nevada Plan” represents the State of Nevada’s provision of a “reasonably equal educational opportunity” by means of a guaranteed level of financial support on a per student basis for each school district and charter school in the State (NRS 387.121). This basic level of education funding per student is legislatively set annually on a statewide average basis. The per student basic support guarantee is based on a Governor-recommended and legislatively-approved total amount of K-12 education funding divided by a statewide projected total weighted apportionment enrollment. The weighted apportionment enrollment is based on (a) the partial count (60%) of pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students (the weighting); (b) a full count of grades 1 through 12; (c) a full count of ungraded students; and (d) the inclusion of net transfers, i.e., student transfers out of the school district minus student transfers in, based only on student transfers to and from other adjoining states.

The Distributive School Account (DSA) represents a State general fund account (Budget Account, or B/A 2610, object code 15, DSA Basic Aid to Schools) from which “aid to school” payments are made. The DSA Equity Allocation Model is intended to provide an equitable distribution of this total funding level, on a per student basis, among Nevada’s seventeen school districts, including its charter schools. The DSA allocation process is designed to enhance the equitable apportionment of school funding based on the diversity of Nevada’s 17 school districts (which are co-terminus with its counties). This “formula” process requires an analysis of each school district’s unique characteristics, specifically, student enrollment, teacher and other staffing needs, operating and equipment costs, the school districts’ degrees of urbanization and student dispersal through the concept of “attendance areas,” a transportation cost equalization, and a local wealth factor incorporating each school district’s relative ability to raise K-12 education revenues from specific local taxes.

NEVADA PLAN GUARANTEE
Basic Support Guarantee per Student by School District

<u>Support Guarantee by School District</u>	<u>FY2006</u>	<u>FY2007</u>
Carson City School District	\$5,203	\$5,487
Churchill County School District	\$5,686	\$5,996
Clark County School District	\$4,285	\$4,489
Douglas County School District	\$4,654	\$4,911
Elko County School District	\$5,640	\$5,973
Esmeralda County School District	\$9,823	\$10,420
Eureka County School District	\$7,299	\$6,577
Humboldt County School District	\$5,674	\$6,000
Lander County School District	\$5,079	\$4,913
Lincoln County School District	\$8,460	\$8,756
Lyon County School District	\$5,816	\$6,106
Mineral County School District	\$6,164	\$6,710
Nye County School District	\$5,807	\$6,090
Pershing County School District	\$6,881	\$7,199
Storey County School District	\$7,166	\$6,881
Washoe County School District	\$4,459	\$4,665
White Pine County School District	\$6,550	\$6,759
NEVADA AVERAGE	\$4,486	\$4,696

STUDENT ENROLLMENT TERMINOLOGY

1. **Full Enrollment** is the total count of students in public schools in all grades to include pre-kindergarten (pre-K), kindergarten (K), grades 1 through 12, inclusive, and ungraded students. Ungraded refers to a student who is enrolled in a non-graded class in a school for special education or a student who cannot be assigned to a particular grade because of the nature of his or her condition (NAC 387.111).
2. **Weighted Enrollment**, based on NRS 387.1233(1)(a), is the total count of students (i.e., the full enrollment determined in item 1, above), with pre-K and K students weighted at 60% of their full enrollment count. Weighted enrollment includes ungraded students, but excludes net transfers (i.e., student transfers out minus transfers in) as described in item 3, below.
3. **Weighted Apportionment Enrollment** is the weighted enrollment adjusted to include net transfers, that is, student transfers out minus transfers in. Student transfers are only counted between other adjoining states, not between other school districts within Nevada. The weighted apportionment enrollment is used to calculate the total basic support per student, or the “Nevada Plan” guarantee, for a given school year.
4. **“Hold Harmless” Weighted Apportionment Enrollment**, based on NRS 387.1233(2) and the “hold harmless” provision, is the greatest weighted apportionment enrollment for the current year and the previous two school years. This measure of enrollment is used to determine the actual apportionment of funds from the Distributive School Account (DSA) to a school district or charter school for a given school year.
5. **Hold Harmless Enrollment** is the difference between the hold harmless weighted apportionment enrollment (item 4) and the weighted apportionment enrollment (item 3). The hold harmless enrollment provides a means to assess the fiscal effects (i.e., additional costs) to the DSA of the hold harmless provision of NRS 387.1233(2).

STUDENT ENROLLMENT TERMINOLOGY

(Continued)

The following terms also affect K-12 student enrollment counts based on “timing” differences and the use of the information (e.g., projections, budgets, etc.).

1. **Estimated Enrollment** is a preliminary student enrollment count based on the latest year-end or audited enrollment figures modified by the school district or charter school for anticipated enrollment changes in the forthcoming school year. The estimated enrollment count is used to make the first two DSA quarterly payments (August 1 and November 1) to school districts and charter schools before count day figures are finalized.
2. **Projected Enrollment** represents the student enrollment figures used for the annual NRS 387.303 report for the next year’s “Budgeted” financial information and consists of growth adjustments to the previous actual year’s student count (count day or audited) used for the report’s “Actual” financial information.
3. **(“Certified”) Count Day Enrollment** is the official, certified student enrollment count taken on the last day of the school district’s first school month (period), typically in late September of each year. The count day student enrollment count determines the basis for the entire year’s DSA payments to school districts and charter schools.
4. **Audited Enrollment** is the final, official school year enrollment count certified by NDE auditors and will determine the adjustments, if any, to be made (by no later than August 25) to a school district’s or charter school’s DSA apportionments for the prior school year (ended June 30).
5. **Forecasted Enrollment** represents enrollment projections made by NDE, school districts, and charter schools, of enrollment by grade, through at least school year 2012 (FY2012). These figures are adjusted for the latest actual count day or audited figures and provide both near-term forecasts for the next biennium DSA budgeting process as well as longer-term student forecasts for use by other agencies and entities.

**THE “NEVADA PLAN”
and the
DISTRIBUTIVE SCHOOL ACCOUNT (DSA)**

[NRS numbers refer to the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) chapters and sections.]

1. The “Nevada Plan” represents the State of Nevada’s guarantee and legislative declaration “that the proper objective of state financial aid to public education is to ensure each Nevada child a reasonably equal educational opportunity” [NRS 387.121].
2. The primary purpose of the Distributive School Account (DSA) is to “supplement local financial ability to whatever extent necessary” and provide the means by which Nevada meets its guaranteed financial support to school districts under the Nevada Plan [NRS 387.121 and NRS 387.122]. The DSA supports the needs of over 412,000 students in 574 schools staffed by 21,700 licensed teachers and over 34,000 school district and charter school total personnel [FY2006 figures].
3. The State Board of Education, through the Nevada Department of Education (NDE), is responsible for administering the Nevada Plan and allocating the legislatively-approved funds from the DSA to school districts and charter schools [NRS 385.010, NRS 385.075, and NRS 385.310].
4. The Nevada Plan guaranteed financial support to public schools is comprised of a combination of state revenues and two locally-generated tax revenue sources. The state revenue sources include, primarily: (a) general fund revenues (consisting, for the most part, of sales taxes, gaming taxes, insurance tax, and a business activity tax); (b) an Out-of-State 2.25% Local School Support Tax (LSST) not attributable to any single county or school district; and (c) a portion of the Annual Slot Machine Tax. The two locally-generated revenues of the Nevada Plan include: (a) a county-specific and apportioned 2.25% Local School Support (sales) Tax; and (b) a 1/3 public schools operating property (and mining net proceeds) tax (PSOPT) [NRS 387.1235].

**THE “NEVADA PLAN”
and
DISTRIBUTIVE SCHOOL ACCOUNT (DSA)
(Continued)**

5. Each school district’s guaranteed basic support per student under the Nevada Plan is determined uniquely by an equity allocation formula (or model) that considers several school district specific factors, including student enrollment, licensed teacher and other staffing expenses, other operating and equipment costs, the district’s degree of urbanization, transportation cost differentials, and a local wealth factor incorporating each school district’s relative ability to raise local (“outside”) tax revenues. These factors, taken together, determine the relative proportions of State revenue support and that funding derived from locally-generated revenues. [NRS 387.121, NRS 387.1233, and NRS 387.1235].

6. For apportionment or funding purposes, the official student enrollment count is based on a modification of the “weighted apportionment enrollment” for a “hold harmless” provision [NRS 387.1233(2)]. Under this concept, a school district’s funding is based on the greatest weighted apportionment enrollment for the current school year and either of the two preceding years, i.e., the most recent three consecutive years.

7. In addition to the Nevada Plan’s two basic components of funding – (a) State obligated revenues and (b) the two locally-generated fund sources – there is also a third funding component for Nevada’s public schools which is not part of the Nevada Plan. These “outside” fund sources consist primarily of a 2/3 public schools operating property tax (PSOPT), a governmental services tax, franchise fees, unrestricted federal revenues, and interest and other local revenues dedicated to local education.

8. Payments to charter schools are made by NDE and are based on the student’s county of residence and the respective school district’s Nevada Plan basic support per student and its “outside” revenues per student.

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND (NCLB) ACT

Principles and Requirements

The federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act is designed to ensure that all students learn and make adequate yearly progress (AYP), without regard to their race or various social statuses. Redefining the federal government's role in K-12 education to improve the nation's academic achievement, NCLB represents a federal plan to reform education and is based on four principles: (1) stronger accountability for results; (2) expanded flexibility and local control; (3) expanded options for parents; and (4) an emphasis on teaching methods that have been proven to work.

In determining AYP, schools are required to test 100 percent of their students and are subject to sanctions if they test fewer than 95% of all students in all defined groups. Tests are given beginning with third grade through high school. Schools are also accountable for ensuring that all students in the following groups make AYP and participate fully in testing: American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian/Pacific Islander, Hispanic, African American, White, Limited English Proficient (LEP) students, special education students, and students qualifying for the Free or Reduced-price Lunch program (FRL). Subgroups must meet established academic achievement levels, attendance requirements, and graduation requirements to make AYP.

Tests in elementary school, middle school, and high school deal with reading/language arts, math, and science. In FY2007 elementary and middle schools will be evaluated using a combination of scores from third through eighth grade criterion-referenced tests (CRTs) in reading and math plus the fifth and ninth grades. Participation rates for statewide testing for all student subgroups listed above are also considered. High schools are judged based on graduation rates in combination with academic performance on the high school proficiency examinations (HSPE) in reading, writing, and mathematics.

**FEDERAL and STATE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT
(NCLB, Senate Bill 1, Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 385)
Requirements and Consequences**

Title I schools (defined, in general, as schools where at least 35 percent of the student enrollment qualifies for the free or reduced lunch program) that do not meet adequate yearly progress (AYP) requirements are subject to the following consequences after each annual threshold:

- (1) First Year – Schools on the early warning list (“watch list”) will face no federal consequences.
- (2) Second Year – Title I schools that do not meet adequate yearly progress in the same content area for two consecutive years are labeled as “needing improvement” and must offer parents the choice of moving their children to another school. Transportation to the new school must be paid for by the school district. The school also must revise its improvement plan. The state or school district may appoint outside experts to help the school improve problem areas.
- (3) Third Year – For Title I schools, tutoring assistance is provided for the lowest-performing students with expenses paid by the school district. School choice with paid transportation continues, as does the option for help from outside experts.
- (4) Fourth Year – Corrective action is taken and could include replacing some or all of the teaching staff, administration and/or curriculum, plus increasing help from outside experts. School choice and tutoring remain in effect. Further, the school must plan for restructuring.
- (5) Fifth Year – The school must be restructured, which can include the possibility of the state “taking over” its operations.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT and MEASURING EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS

The Nevada State Legislature and the State Board of Education have mandated that the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) develop an assessment system to measure student progress toward meeting state academic standards. The Nevada Proficiency Examination Program (NPEP) has four distinct parts:

1. The **High School Proficiency Examination (HSPE)** is a graduation test that all students must pass to receive a standard diploma. Students begin taking the HSPE in grades 10 or 11 and have multiple opportunities to pass by the end of grade 12. The HSPE currently measures student proficiency in mathematics, reading and writing, with science to be included as a graduation requirement by 2010. Students have their first opportunities to take the math, reading, and science portions of the examinations at least two years prior to their expected date of graduation. The Writing Assessment portion of the examination is administered for the first time in the fall semester of the 11th grade year. All 10th, 11th, and 12th grade examinations administered in this program are based on the Nevada State Standards, adopted by the State Board of Education in 1998 and prioritized in 1999. All test items are drafted by committees of Nevada educators under supervision of WestEd Regional Education Laboratory and a test development company contracted by the State. Completed items are approved by committees of educators for content and bias.
2. **Criterion-Referenced Tests (CRTs)** are administered at grades 3 through 8 and are based on the Nevada State Standards, adopted by the State Board of Education in 1998 and revised in 2005/06. The CRTs are designed to measure student progress towards meeting the state standards. The CRTs include reading and math tests in grades 3-8 as well as science in grades 5 and 8.

**SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT
and
MEASURING EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS
(Continued)**

The reading and math tests for grades 3 and 5 were administered for the first time in the spring of 2002; the tests for grade 5 science and in all subjects for grade 8 were administered for the first time in the spring of 2004. To meet the new federal testing requirements under No Child Left Behind (NCLB), the CRT program in reading and math has now been expanded to measure progress in all grades from 3 to 8. Students' scores on all CRTs are placed in one of four achievement levels adopted by the state: (1) Exceeds Standard; (2) Meets Standard; (3) Approaches Standard; and (4) Developing/Emergent. Scores required for each of the categories are based on recommendations made by committees of Nevada citizens and educators, and adopted by the State Board of Education.

3. A state-mandated **writing examination** is administered at grades 5 and 8 and is part of the HSPE program. In the 5th and the 8th grades, students respond to a single writing prompt selected to assess narrative/descriptive writing. In grade 11, students respond to two prompts, one selected to assess narrative/descriptive writing and one selected to assess expository/persuasive writing. Student responses are scored by at least two Nevada educators specially trained in the use of the scoring rubrics (written procedures).

4. **Norm-Referenced Tests (NRTs)** in reading, language, mathematics, and science are currently administered in grades 4, 7, and 10. The NRT allows for comparisons of achievement levels between students in Nevada and elsewhere in the nation. Beginning in the 2002-2003 academic year, the NRT used in Nevada is the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS) at grades 4 and 7, and the Iowa Tests of Educational Development (ITED) at grade 10.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Special education programs in Nevada serve students with identified disabilities as established in Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 388.520 and as described in more detail in Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 388.001 through 388.145, inclusive. These special education disability categories include: (1) autism; (2) deaf/blind; (3) developmentally delayed; (4) emotional disturbance; (5) health impairment; (6) hearing impairment; (7) mental retardation; (8) orthopedic impairment; (9) specific learning disability; (10) speech/language impairment; (11) traumatic brain injury; (12) visual impairment/blind; and (13) multiple impairments.

Under federal and Nevada state law, each student with a disability is entitled to receive a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). School districts must provide the services necessary to assure FAPE for all students with disabilities, without regard to the adequacy of state revenues to support the costs. According to law, "special education" means "specially designed instruction, at no cost to parents, to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability." The instruction can be provided in many locations including the general education classroom in a consultative or team teaching model; a resource room in a "pull out" model; a self-contained program; a special school; a hospital or home setting; or a residential school. Regardless of the location, the program must be provided in accordance with an annual Individualized Educational Program (IEP) developed by parents and educators.

Students are entitled to receive "related services" if those services are necessary to assist the student to benefit from special education. Related services are defined in federal regulations as "transportation, and such developmental, corrective, and other supportive services required to assist a child with a disability to benefit from special education, and includes speech-language pathology and audiology services, psychological services, physical and occupational therapy, recreation, including

SPECIAL EDUCATION (Continued)

therapeutic recreation, early identification and assessment of disabilities in children, counseling services, including rehabilitation counseling, orientation and mobility services, and medical services for diagnostic or evaluation purposes. The term also includes school health services, social work services in schools, and parent counseling and training.”

The average cost of educating students with disabilities is about 2.5 times the cost of educating students in the general population. This includes both the general education as well as specialized program costs. These costs include the following expenses: salaries, benefits, student evaluations, speech therapy, physical therapy, counseling, specialized equipment, transportation, costs associated with general classroom participation, materials, supplies, and the educational costs not unique to special education, such as utilities, maintenance, and administration.

Since 1973, state law has provided a “unit” funding mechanism to enable school districts to operate specialized educational programs for students with disabilities. NRS 387.1221 defines a unit as “an organized unit of special education and related services which includes full-time services of persons licensed by the superintendent of public instruction or other appropriate licensing body, providing a program of instruction in accordance with minimum standards prescribed by the state board.” Over time, the state’s unit funding has not kept pace with the actual number of units operating or with the growth in teachers’ salaries and benefits. As a result, local school districts have used an ever-increasing amount of local funds to support the costs of special education. Funding for special education is a shared responsibility. Even if the number of units and the amount per unit were increased, local funds would continue to support expenditures for related services, therapies, instructional aids and other items to assure FAPE.

ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Education in Nevada provides an opportunity for adults who leave high school without graduating to: (1) earn a high school diploma or its equivalent; (2) become literate and obtain knowledge and skills necessary for employment and self-sufficiency; (3) obtain education skills necessary to become full partners in the educational development of their children; and/or (4) gain English proficiency in improving reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics skills and acquire an understanding of the American free enterprise system, individual freedoms, and responsibilities of citizenship.

Funds from the federal Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, as well as some state dollars, provide for Adult Basic Education and English as a Second Language literacy services as well as civics education in community and faith-based organizations and in community colleges. Because of the influx of migrants and immigrants, 85% of the students served by these programs are English language learners.

Adult High School programs are funded by the State of Nevada. The programs are offered in 14 of the 17 Nevada school districts. The program offers educational services to students over 17 years of age who have not graduated from high school and have withdrawn from regular school. In addition, four school districts offer Adult High School Programs within Nevada Department of Corrections facilities. Curriculum includes core and elective courses and English as a Second Language courses. Students also have the opportunity to take the Nevada high school proficiency exams. Most programs are self paced and competency-based and are open entry/open exit to accommodate adult schedules.

General Education Development or GED testing allows adults to earn the equivalent of a high school diploma. The GED is an assessment instrument, administered at 21 test sites throughout the state, to validate an adult's academic skills and knowledge.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

In FY2006, 58,872 secondary students were enrolled in Nevada high schools providing Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses with entry-level skills for the labor market as well as academic preparation for postsecondary work. In addition, 30,067 students were enrolled in CTE programs in Nevada's four community colleges. Tech Prep Education allows 11th and 12th graders to earn up to fifteen community college credits when enrolled in articulated CTE courses. CTE program areas include:

Agriculture and Natural Resource Education – Combines classroom instruction, supervised agriculture experience, premier leadership, personal growth and career success through the FFA.

Business and Marketing Education – Prepares students for employment, entrepreneurship, and postsecondary education opportunities in business and marketing through technical laboratory and classroom instruction and work-based learning.

Career Education – Addresses the career academic and personal/social development needs of students by focusing upon the skills and competencies needed to effectively manage their education and careers.

Family and Consumer Sciences – Students focus on the development of skills needed to manage the multiple roles of being a family member, wage earner, and community leader; skills for living and earning a living.

Health Sciences – Provides students with competency-based instruction resulting in certified occupational skills and preparation for continued education and meaningful employment.

Information Technology Education – Combines technical instruction in the classroom, experiential laboratory education, student internships, work-based learning, and industry certifications.

Trade, Industrial and Technical Education – Includes related technical programs such as Automotive Technology, Building Construction, Computer-Aided Drafting and Design, and Metalworking designed to prepare students for further education after high school in related areas at the postsecondary level.

Nevada School District Full Enrollments

School Districts*	FY2005 Audited	FY2006 Audited	FY2007 Count Day	Percent Change**
Carson City	8,725	8,518	8,320	-2.3%
Churchill County	4,507	4,545	4,463	-1.8%
Clark County	280,796	291,329	302,763	3.9%
Douglas County	7,210	7,035	6,848	-2.7%
Elko County	9,739	9,824	9,907	0.8%
Esmeralda County	66	83	68	-18.1%
Eureka County	236	224	235	4.9%
Humboldt County	3,461	3,457	3,399	-1.7%
Lander County	1,226	1,286	1,258	-2.2%
Lincoln County	1,006	992	982	-1.0%
Lyon County	8,188	8,696	9,175	5.5%
Mineral County	736	679	667	-1.8%
Nye County	5,885	6,222	6,536	5.0%
Pershing County	797	803	797	-0.7%
Storey County	478	450	454	0.9%
Washoe County	62,097	62,372	63,046	1.1%
White Pine County	1,446	1,504	1,420	-5.6%
School Districts	396,599	408,019	420,338	3.0%
Charter Schools	4,338	4,933	6,053	22.7%
NEVADA TOTALS	400,937	412,952	426,391	3.3%

* School district enrollments exclude resident charter school students which are listed separately.

** Note: Percent change represents year-over-year percent changes from FY2006 to FY2007.

Source: Nevada Department of Education, Administrative and Fiscal Services.

Nevada School District Full Enrollments

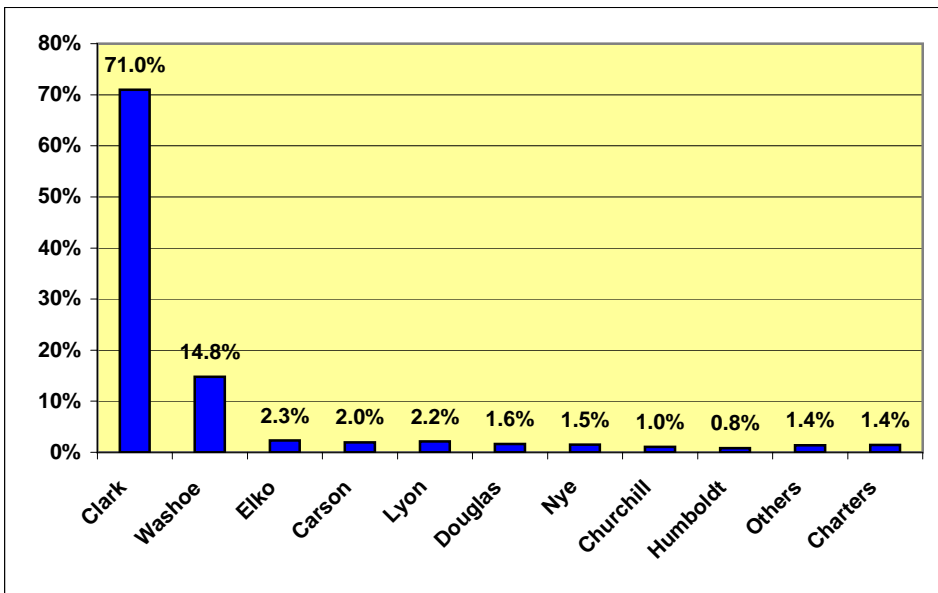
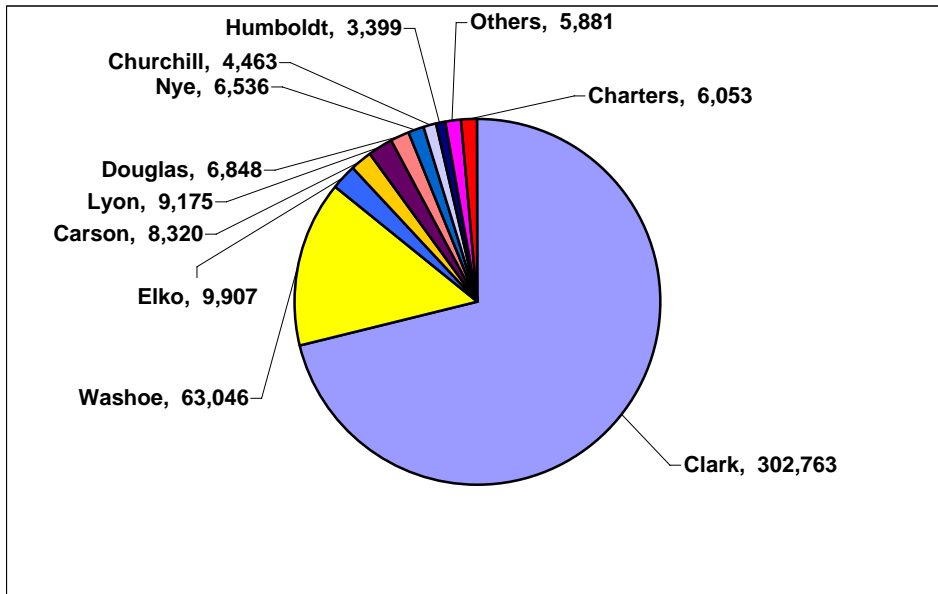
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Source: Nevada Department of Education, Administrative and Fiscal Services.

FY2007 Full Enrollments/Shares by School District



NEVADA CHARTER SCHOOLS

Introduction and Legislation

Charter schools are public elementary, middle and/or secondary schools that are relatively autonomous schools of choice that operate under a charter or contract issued by a public entity such as a local school board or a state board of education. Individual states determine in their charter school legislation what rules must be adhered to, what rules may be waived, and what procedures must be followed to obtain a charter. In return for autonomy, charter schools are held accountable for student performance. If the goals of the school set forth in the charter are not reached, the school's charter may be revoked or not renewed.

Nevada's Charter School Legislation was enacted in 1997, and Nevada's first charter school, I Can Do Anything Charter High School sponsored by the Washoe County School District, opened for the 1998-99 (FY1999) school year. Currently, over 6,000 students attend charter schools in Nevada. The intent of the legislation is to provide teachers and other educational personnel, parents, legal guardians, and other persons who are interested in public education in Nevada the opportunity to:

1. Improve the learning of students and, by extension, improve the system of public education;
2. Increase the opportunities for learning and for access to quality education by students;
3. Encourage the use of different and innovative teaching methods;
4. Establish appropriate measures for and assessments of learning achieved by students who are enrolled in charter schools;
5. Provide a more thorough and efficient system of accountability of the results achieved in public education in the state; and
6. Create new professional opportunities for teachers and other educational personnel.

NEVADA CHARTER SCHOOLS and DIRECTORS

Academy for Career Education, Ms. Silvia Marin

2800 Vassar Street, Reno, NV 89502

775.324.3900 / FAX 775.324.3901

Andre Agassi Academy, Mr. Roy Parker/Mr. Caesar Mickens

1201 West Lake Mead Boulevard, Las Vegas NV 89106

702.948.6000 / FAX 702.948.6002

Bailey Charter Elementary School, Mr. Carl Meibergen

1090 Bresson Avenue, Reno NV 89502

775.323.6767 / FAX 775.323.6799

Carson Montessori School, Mr. George Barnes

2263 Mouton Drive, Carson City, NV 89706

775.887.9500 / FAX 775.887.9502

Coral Academy of Science, Mr. Ben Karaduman

1350 East Ninth Street, Reno NV 89512

775.323.2332 x114 / FAX 775.323.2366

Explore Knowledge Academy, Dr. Joan Sando

1711 Whitney Mesa Drive, Henderson, NV 89014

702.870.5032 / FAX 702.871.5032

High Desert Montessori School, Ms. Carol Andrew

2590 Orovada Street, Reno, NV 89502

775.624.2800 x103 / FAX 775.624.2801

I Can Do Anything Charter High School, Ms. Jill Wells

1195 Corporate Boulevard, Suite C, Reno NV 89502

775.857.1544 / FAX 775.857.6825

Innovations International of Nevada, Dr. Connie Malin

1600 East Oakey Boulevard, Las Vegas, NV 89104

702.216.4337 / FAX 702.216.4353

Keystone Academy, Mr. Al Oppegard

115 Miami Street, Sandy Valley NV 89019

702.723.1966 / FAX 702.723.1967

NEVADA CHARTER SCHOOLS and DIRECTORS

Mariposa Academy of Language and Learning, Ms. Aida Tadeo

3875 Glen Street, Reno NV 89502
775.826.4040 / FAX 775.826.4030

Nevada State High School, Dr. Wendi Hawk

1125 Nevada State Drive, Henderson NV 89002
702.992.2017 / FAX 702.566.5793

Odyssey Charter Schools, Dr. Craig Butz

2251 South Jones Boulevard, Las Vegas NV 89146
702.257.0578 x5550 / FAX 702.259.7793

One Hundred Academy of Excellence, Mr. Juan Henderson

2341 Comstock Drive, North Las Vegas NV 89032
702.636.2551 / FAX 702.636.9475

Rainshadow Community Charter High School, Dr. Carol White

434 Washington Street, Reno NV 89503-4300
775.322.5566 / FAX 775.322.5509

Sierra Crest Academy, Mr. David Brackett

1701 Lucerne Street, Minden NV 89423
775.783.9002 / FAX 775.552.9815

Sierra Nevada Academy, Ms. Kim Regan

13880 Stead Boulevard, Reno NV 89506
775.677.4500 x13 / FAX 775.677.4441

Silver State High School, Mr. Steve Knight

3719 North Carson Street, Carson City NV 89706
775.883.7900 / FAX 775.883.9130

TEAM A, Ms. Judy Kroshus

981 Bible Way, Reno NV 89502
775.323.8555 / FAX 775.323.8557

Charter School Full Enrollments by School

DISTRICT/Charter School	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007
CARSON CITY				
Carson Montessori*	-	65	78	103
Silver State High School*	-	144	218	259
CHURCHILL COUNTY				
Gateway to Success*	50	45	-	-
CLARK COUNTY				
Andre Agassi Charter	248	300	429	512
Clark County Team Academy*	230	279	-	-
Explore Knowledge Charter	283	302	514	521
Innovations International	-	-	-	403
Keystone Charter	51	57	51	55
Nevada State High School	-	40	104	148
Odyssey Charter School	1,258	1,330	1,440	1,409
100 Academy of Excellence	-	-	-	468
DOUGLAS COUNTY				
Sierra Crest Academy*	-	74	56	60
WASHOE COUNTY				
Academy for Career Education*	122	131	133	188
Bailey Elementary Charter	261	226	268	271
Coral Academy of Science*	295	254	360	420
Halima Academy	-	23	87	-
High Desert Montessori*	115	114	179	215
ICDA Charter School	333	292	286	352
Mariposa Academy	187	169	197	176
Rainshadow Charter H.S.	75	106	114	101
Sierra Nevada Academy	295	299	262	244
TEAM A (Washoe)*	-	88	157	157
NEVADA TOTALS	3,803	4,338	4,933	6,062

* Represents a multi-district charter school, i.e., a charter school with students residing in more than one school district.

Charter School Enrollments by County of Residence

SCHOOL DISTRICT	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007
Carson City	3	148	194	244
Churchill	67	56	1	-
Clark	2,008	2,305	2,540	3,516
Douglas	2	84	95	135
Elko	-	3	12	4
Esmeralda	-	-	-	-
Eureka	-	-	-	-
Humboldt	-	-	-	-
Lander	-	1	-	-
Lincoln	-	-	-	-
Lyon	7	45	70	63
Mineral	2	2	-	-
Nye	1	-	-	-
Pershing	-	-	2	1
Storey	-	2	-	-
Washoe	1,713	1,692	2,019	2,099
White Pine	-	-	-	-
NEVADA TOTALS	3,803	4,338	4,933	6,062
Percent Increase	38.1%	14.1%	13.7%	22.9%

Note: Charter schools may be sponsored by either individual school districts or the State Board of Education, but are currently "located" only in Carson City, Clark County, Douglas County, and Washoe County school districts. However, due to the existence of "multi-district" charter schools with student enrollments permitted in any school district, students are recorded as resident in other school districts as well. Specifically, an application for enrollment in a charter school may be submitted to the charter school's governing body by the parent or legal guardian of any child who resides in the State of Nevada. Consequently, any Nevada child is allowed to attend any charter school in any school district of the State of Nevada per NRS 386.580(1).

U.S.-Nevada Current Expenditures per Student

School Fiscal Year	United States Average Current Expenditures per Student	Nevada Current Expenditures per Student	Nevada vs. U.S. Current Expenditure "Gap"	Percent Increase in Nevada Expenditures to Close "Gap"
FY1994	\$ 5,327	\$ 4,664	\$ (663)	14.2%
FY1995	5,529	4,730	(799)	16.9%
FY1996	5,689	4,892	(797)	16.3%
FY1997	5,923	5,084	(839)	16.5%
FY1998	6,189	5,295	(894)	16.9%
FY1999	6,508	5,587	(921)	16.5%
FY2000	6,912	5,760	(1,152)	20.0%
FY2001	7,380	5,807	(1,573)	27.1%
FY2002	7,727	6,079	(1,648)	27.1%
FY2003	8,044	6,092	(1,952)	32.0%
FY2004	8,369	6,454	(1,915)	29.7%
FY2005*	8,707	6,750	(1,957)	29.0%
FY2006*	9,058	7,060	(1,999)	28.3%
FY2007*	\$ 9,424	\$ 7,276	\$ (2,149)	29.5%

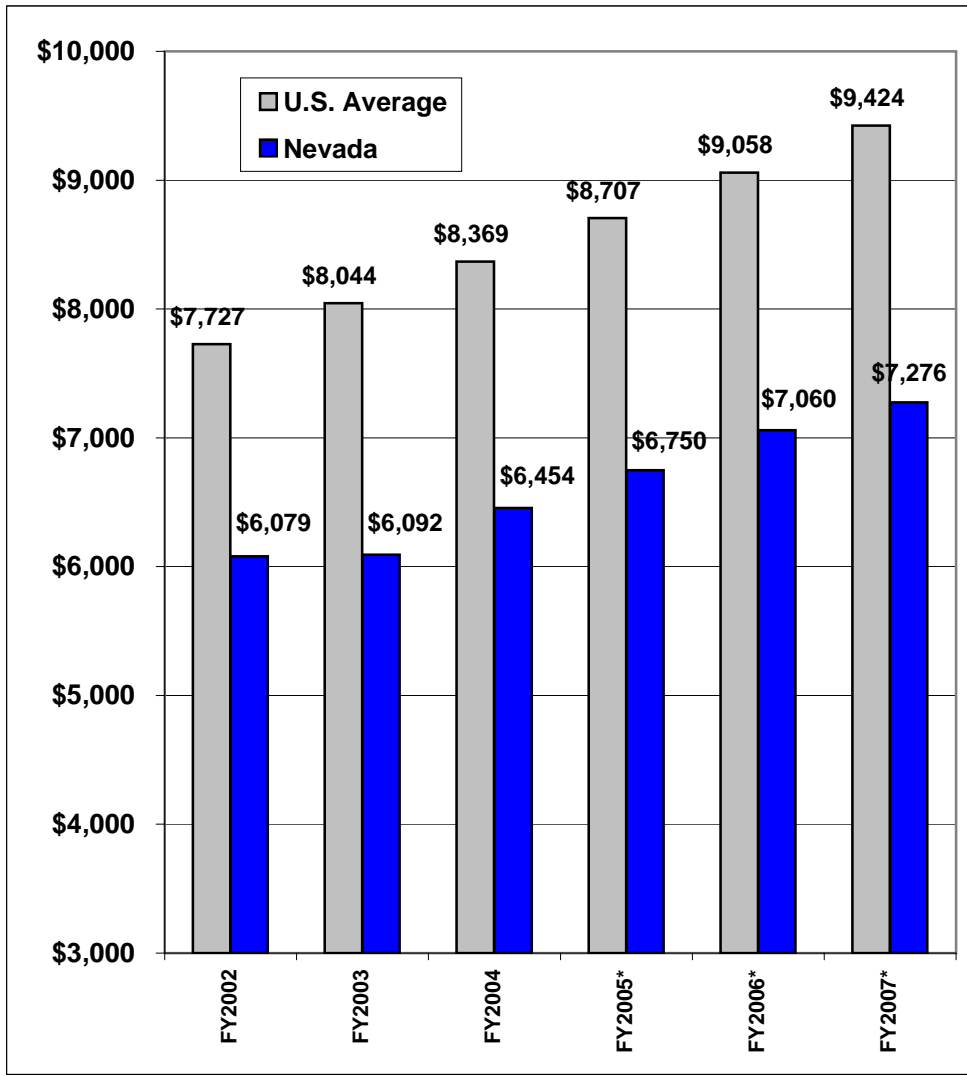
The "FY" school fiscal year is based on the calendar period of July 1 through June 30, inclusive.

Note: Current expenditures include all state, local, and federal government expenditures for current expenses; excludes capital costs and expenses related to debt servicing. Due to strict federal (NCES) reporting criteria, the current expenditure figures are comparable for all the states and the U.S. average; student enrollments used for this calculation are based on the end of the first school month full enrollments (fall enrollments).

*U.S. average current expenditures per student for FY2005-FY2007 are based on NCES "middle" projections. Nevada's expenditures per student are based on actual FY2003-FY2007 DSA basic support levels per student and historical relationships between Nevada DSA support levels per student and NCES current expenditures per student.

Sources: FY1992-FY2007 United States, NCES; FY1992-FY2004 Nevada, NCES; FY2005-FY2007 Nevada estimates, Nevada Department of Education and NEA.

U.S.-Nevada Current Expenditures per Student



Funding	FY2004	FY2005*	FY2006*	FY2007*
"Gap"	\$ (1,915)	\$ (1,957)	\$ (1,999)	\$ (2,149)
Change	-1.9%	2.2%	2.1%	7.5%

NOTES

The "Nevada Education QuickFACTS" is available free of charge to individuals for single copy orders. Please contact NDE's Administrative and Fiscal Services office for ordering information and to obtain cost estimates related to multiple-copy orders.

NEVADA DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION
Administrative and Fiscal Services
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