

Improving the Education of American Indian and Alaskan Natives in Nevada



Presented to:

Nevada Legislative
Committee on Education

Prepared by:

Advisory Committee on
Indian Education in Nevada
for the Nevada Indian
Commission

EXHIBIT J Education

Document consists of 16 pages.

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2004 Bulletin of Student Enrollment and Licensed Personnel issued by the Nevada Department of Education reports

- ❖ Increase of American Indian and Alaskan Native students in the public School System from 6,323 to 6,599 (an increase of 276 students which represents 1.7% of all students)
- ❖ Dramatic drop in enrollment in high school of AI/AN Students.

~~ After the freshman year, there is a loss of 145 students, after sophomore year a loss of 124 students and another 101 students between junior and senior years for an average loss of 123 students per years.

~~ The student loss and the inability to track where the students have gone and if they have dropped out or transferred out of state is an issue that needs to be explored.

~~ This loss of high school students is of grave concern and is an indication that efforts and research is needed to determine the cause.

~~ Development of strategies and goals to improve the education of AI/AN students is needed – taking in consideration cultural, community, language, history and the unique legal relationship AI/AN have with the federal government.

History of Indian Education in Nevada

Prior to 1990

The Nevada Indian Commission was funded to include an Education Consultant position as one of its staff members. Due to funding cuts and re-organization the position was eliminated)

- 1990-92** U.S. Department of Education's Indian Nations At Risk Task Force and White House Conference on Indian Education
- 1991-** Nevada State Indian Education Steering Committee organized and submitted report to White House Conference on Indian Education – delegation was sent to Washington, D.C.
- 1997-** AB266 enacted authorizing funding to support a Consultant position on Indian Education. Funding became permanent in 2003 under general fund for Dept. of Education
- 2000-** Nevada Indian Commission – Strategic Plan and Education Focus
- Feb. 2001** Caucus on Indian Education held in Reno by NIC
- June 2001** NIC authorizes establishment of an Advisory Committee on Indian Education
- May 2003** Bylaws forming Advisory Committee approved and ratified by NIC





American Indian and Alaska Native Population In Nevada – BY COUNTY

Area	2000 Total Nevada Population	2000 AI/AN Alone	2000 AI/AN Multi-Race	2000 AI/AN Total	1990 AI/AN	% Of Change 2000 vs 1990
Carson City	52,457	1,259	463	1,722	1,106	13.8%
Churchill	23,982	1,146	297	1,443	895	28.0%
Clark	1,375,765	10,895	9,833	20,728	6,416	69.8%
Douglas	41,259	692	323	1,015	570	21.4%
Elko	45,291	2,400	447	2,847	2,128	12.8%
Esmeralda	971	50	31	81	74	-32.4%
Eureka	1,651	26	42	68	41	-36.6%
Humboldt	16,106	647	167	814	714	-9.4%
Lander	5,794	231	50	281	295	-21.7%
Lincoln	4,165	73	36	109	58	25.9%
Lyon	34,501	844	449	1,293	623	35.5%
Mineral	5,071	779	59	838	748	4.1%
Nye	32,485	636	460	1,096	499	27.5%
Pershing	6,693	229	100	329	204	12.3%
Storey	3,399	49	46	95	51	-3.9%
Washoe	339,486	6,162	2,908	9,070	4,921	25.2%
White Pine	9,181	302	91	393	294	2.7%
Nevada Total:	1,998,257	26,420	15,802	42,222	19,637	34.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 and Las Vegas Indian Center, Inc. Analysis

AI/AN Population in Nevada



Tribes in Nevada

1	Duck Valley Shoshone-Paiute Tribe
2	Duckwater Shoshone Tribe
3	Ely Shoshone Tribe
4	Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe
5	Ft. McDermitt Tribe
6	Ft. Mojave Indian Tribe
7	Goshute Tribe
8	Las Vegas Paiute Tribe
9	Lovelock Paiute Tribe
10	Moapa Paiute Band
11	Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
12	Reno/ Sparks Indian Colony
13	Summit Lake Paiute Tribe
14	Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians
15	Battle Mountain Band Council
16	Elko Band Council
17	South Fork Band Council
18	Wells Band Council
19	Timbisha Shoshone Tribe
20	Walker River Paiute Tribe
21	Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California
22	Carson Colony Community Council
23	Dresslerville Colony Community Council
24	Stewart Colony Community Council
25	Woodsford Community Council (in California)
26	Winnemucca Colony Council
27	Yerington Paiute Tribe
28	Yomba Shoshone Tribe



Nevada Tribal Land Base

Tribal lands are diverse and have been reduced from their original base located throughout Nevada. Tribal lands include: Colonies, Reservations, Allotments, Ranch, Tribal Fee Land, Federal Land, Government Owned Land and Trust Lease Lands. Tribal sovereignty encompasses lands within the exterior bounds of Tribal land held in trust by the federal government for the Tribes and their members.

Tribe	County	Total Tribal Land	Land in Nevada	Land in Neighboring State	Comments
Duck Valley Shoshone Tribe	Elko	289,819	144,274	145,545	Land also in Idaho
Duckwater Shoshone Tribe	Nye	3,815	3,815		
Ely Shoshone Tribe	White Pine	111	111		
Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe	Churchill	3,549	3,549		
Ft. McDermitt	Humboldt	35,488	16,660	18,829	Land also in Oregon
Fort Mojave Indian Tribe	Clark	34,998	3,998	31,000	Land also in CA & AZ
Goshute Tribe	White Pine	108,932.70	70,489	38,443.70	Land also in Utah
Las Vegas Paiute Tribe	Clark	3,850	3,850		
Lovelock Paiute Tribe	Pershing	20	20		
Moapa Paiute Band	Clark	71,954	71,954		
Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe	Washoe, Lyon & Storey	475,000	475,000		112,000 acres of lake surface included in 475,000
Reno/Sparks Indian Colony	Washoe	1,978	1,978		
Summit Lake Paiute Tribe	Humboldt	10,098	10,098		560 acres of lake surface included in 10,097.97
Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone		16,636	16,636		Te-Moak Tribe is comprised of four Bands: Battle Mountain, Elko, South Fork and Wells
- Battle Mountain Band	Lander		-----		
- Elko Band	Elko		-----		
- South Fork Band	Elko		-----		
- Wells Band	Elko		-----		
Timbisha Shoshone Tribe	Nye	7,453.99	5,500	1,953.99	California
Walker River Paiute Tribe	Churchill, Lyon	323,386	323,386		
Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California		4,234	3,834	320	The Washoe Tribe is comprised of four communities: Carson Colony, Dresslerville Colony, Stewart Colony and Woodfords in Alpine Co., CA 80 is in California
- Carson Colony	Carson City		-----		
- Dresslerville Colony	Douglas		-----		
- Stewart Colony	Carson		-----		
- Woodfords Colony	Alpine Co., CA		-----		
Winnemucca Colony Council	Humboldt	340	340		
Yerington Paiute Tribe	Lyon	1,653	1,653		
Yomba Shoshone Tribe	Nye	4,718	4,718		
Total:		1,398,036.40	1,161,864.92	236,171.48	

Resource: Tribal Profiles and Bureau of Indian Affairs

School Districts and Tribes – By County

School District		Tribe		School District		Tribe
1	Carson City School District	Carson Colony	→	10	Lincoln County School District	Off-Reservation/Urban
		Stewart Community		11	Lyon County School District	Yerington Paiute Tribe
		Off-Reservation/Urban Indians				Walker River Paiute Tribe
2	Churchill County School District:	Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe		12	Mineral County School District	Walker River Paiute Tribe
		Walker River Paiute Tribe				Off-Reservation/Urban
		Off-Reservation/Urban Indians		13	Nye County School District	Off-Reservation/Urban
3	Clark County School District	Las Vegas Paiute Tribe	→	14	Pershing County School District	Lovelock Paiute Tribe
		Moapa Tribe				Off-Reservation/Urban
		Las Vegas Off-Reservation/Urban Indians		15	Storey County School District	Off-Reservation/Urban
4	Douglas County School District	Dresslerville Colony	→	16	Washoe County School District	Reno-Sparks Indian Colony
		Woodfords Community				Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
		Off-Reservation/Urban Indians				Off-Reservation/Urban
5	Elko County School District	Elko Band Council		17	White Pine County School District	Ely Shoshone Tribe
		Wells Band				Duckwater Shoshone Tribe
		South Fork Band Council				Goshute Tribe
		Off-Reservation/Urban Indians				Off-Reservation
6	Esmeralda County School District	Off-Reservation/Urban Indians				
7	Eureka County School District	McDermitt Paiute Tribe				
		Winnemucca Paiute Tribe				
		Off-Reservation/Urban Indians				
8	Humboldt County School District	Off-Reservation/Urban Indians				
9	Lander County School District	Battle Mountain Band Council				
		Off-Reservation/Urban Indians				

→ No tribal reservation or trust land base in service area



AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKAN NATIVE ENROLLMENTS BY GRADE

Source: Nevada Department of Education - Annual Research Bulletin - 2004

TOTAL						
GRADE	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
PREKINDE	49	44	47	44	45	50
KINDERGA	435	432	459	466	431	470
GRADE 1	462	468	497	530	503	495
GRADE 2	493	462	451	498	535	526
GRADE 3	442	500	492	474	511	542
GRADE 4	482	456	489	505	513	550
GRADE 5	472	499	469	514	508	523
GRADE 6	463	515	521	494	543	545
GRADE 7	462	487	521	539	516	559
GRADE 8	442	475	463	481	538	529
GRADE 9	427	443	508	563	590	646
GRADE 10	397	433	322	397	458	501
GRADE 11	313	357	374	317	321	377
GRADE 12	285	283	296	323	299	276
UNGRADE	11	13	13	13	12	10
TOTALS	5,635	5,867	5,922	6,158	6,323	6,599
PERCENT	1.78%	1.77%	1.72%	1.69%	1.69%	1.70%

AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKAN NATIVE ENROLLMENTS BY DISTRICT

Source: Nevada Department of Education - Annual Research Bulletin - 2004

TOTAL						
DISTRICT	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
CARSON C	284	289	278	290	280	286
CHURCHILL	328	339	347	340	326	317
CLARK	1,807	1,877	1,989	2,061	2,156	2,315
DOUGLAS	192	183	175	191	203	207
ELKO	745	755	720	669	676	677
ESMERALD	12	13	15	12	8	8
EUREKA	17	13	19	20	18	15
HUMBOLD	159	179	151	166	167	170
LANDER	61	51	53	58	62	66
LINCOLN	12	16	17	11	20	14
LYON	282	293	294	349	381	398
MINERAL	180	170	158	165	139	121
NYE	139	148	124	145	136	141
PERSHING	52	58	57	62	57	63
STOREY	3	3	3	1	5	8
WASHOE	1,261	1,383	1,431	1,532	1,615	1,719
WHITE PIN	101	96	91	86	74	74
TOTALS	5,635	5,866	5,922	6,158	6,323	6,599
PERCENT	1.81%	1.80%	1.74%	1.73%	1.71%	1.71%

Tribal recognition and uniqueness

- United States recognizes the sovereign status of Indian tribes as "domestic dependent nations."
Cherokee Nation v. Georgia, 30 U.S. (5 Pet.) 1, 17 (1831).
- U.S. Constitution:
 - ~ recognizes Indian sovereignty by classing Indian treaties among the "supreme Law of the land,"
 - ~ establishes Indian affairs as a unique area of federal concern.



Principles of Indian Sovereignty and the Trust Responsibility

- the Constitution vests Congress with plenary power over Indian affairs
- Indian tribes retain important sovereign powers over "their members and their territory," subject to the plenary power of Congress
- the United States has a trust responsibility to Indian tribes, which guides and limits the Federal Government in dealings with Indian tribes. Thus, federal and tribal law generally have primacy over Indian affairs in Indian country, except where Congress has provided otherwise.

Indian Education Consultant / Consultant for School Improvement Equity in Education Team

In 1997 the Legislature enacted Assembly Bill 266, providing funding to the Department of Education to hire two Education Consultants(Indian Education Consultant - to work on problems confronting American Indian students and a Consultant to oversee the broader topic of culturally diverse students, including children who are not proficient in the English language. In 1999 the Consultant positions became permanent after evaluation

Indian Education Consultant – Duties under AB266

1	Provide technical assistance and direction to school
2	Assess the academic performance of these children
3	Identify special programs, methods and materials that
4	Establish programs that will assist these children to
5	Assist schools and school districts in planning
6	Coordinate with existing state and local education
7	Identify effective teaching methods for teachers

8	Coordinate with teacher training programs
9	Coordinate with school counselors, school
10	Increase participation of these children in
11	Assist schools and school districts to
12	Assist schools and school districts to utilize
13	Establish a system of information to be used



Issues to be addressed:

1. With changes in the organization of the Department of Education, the former Indian Education Consultant position activities have changed.
2. The position, now referred to as a school improvement consultant, is subject to the strict control and direction of the team leader in line with specific goals established by the department and the work team.
3. Consultant activities are limited to working with school districts.
4. No support or advocacy is authorized the position to address tribal issues and specific needs to specifically address a plan to improve education of American Indian and Alaskan Natives and Alaskan Natives nor to coordinate or facilitate intra-governmental education forums on Indian education in Nevada.
5. Indian Education consultant could have been responsible and directly involved in coordinating the review of needs and issues and coordinating and facilitating development of the goals and recommendations being presented
6. Indian Education consultant could have been responsible and directly involved in coordinating the review of needs and issues and coordinating and facilitating development of the goals and recommendations being presented
7. The Consultant could also have coordinated tribal, American Indian and Alaskan Native leadership and Indian educator input for the development of the Department of Education's strategic plan and related plans for the No Child Left Behind effort.
8. Tribe's, nor their education programs were consulted or given an opportunity to participate to address the special needs of American Indian and Alaskan Native and Alaskan Native students in Nevada.



Recommendations:

1. Consultant position needs to be more directly accountable and involved in Indian education issues and improvement of education for American Indian and Alaskan Natives and Alaskan Natives
2. Consider transfer of position and funding to Nevada Indian Commission to allow a greater level of direct involvement and coordination of improving education relationships
3. Revise job duties and performance standards to allow direct involvement with implementation of the Advisory Committee recommendations in addition to fulfilling the duties provided under legislation provided by AB 266.



Advisory Committee on Indian Education in Nevada for the Nevada Indian Commission



TARGET AREAS

1. . Early Childhood Education
- 2.
3. . Primary and Secondary Education -- K-12
- 4.
5. . Higher Education
- 6.
7. . Community/Tribal/Parental Participation
- 8.
9. . Self-esteem, Cultural Pride and Wellness
- 10.
11. . Career Awareness and Adult Education
- 12.
13. . Career Awareness and Adult Culture/Language Education
- 14.
15. . Special Needs Education
- 16.
17. . Conflict Resolution
- 18.

Advisory Committee on Indian Education in Nevada for the Nevada Indian Commission

GOALS (Objectives provided in handout)

- Goal 1 By the year 2010, all Native children will have access to early childhood education programs that continue to provide them with the language, social, physical, spiritual, and cultural foundations necessary to succeed in school and reach their full potential as adults
- Goal 2 By the year 2010, all schools will offer Native students the opportunity to maintain and develop their tribal languages and create a multi-cultural environment that enhances the many cultures represented in school.
- Goal 3 By the year 2010, all Native children will demonstrate proficiency with Nevada State Language Arts Standards
- Goal 4 By the year 2010, all Native students will be capable of passing all components of the Nevada State High School Proficiency Exam.
- Goal 5 By the year 2010, all Native students capable of completing high school will graduate. They will demonstrate civic, social, creative and critical thinking skills necessary for ethical, moral and responsible citizenship important in modern tribal, national and world societies.
- Goal 6 By the year 2010, the numbers of American Indian and Alaskan Native educators will mirror/reflect the American Indian and Alaskan Native student population of the state. (Note: Currently, the American Indian and Alaskan Native teacher population of the state is 1.12%. American Indian and Alaskan Native general student population is 1.69%)
- Goal 7 By the year 2010, every school responsible for educating Native students will be free of alcohol and drugs and will provide safe facilities and an environment conducive to learning.
- Goal 8 By the year 2010, Native adults will have the opportunity to be literate and to obtain the necessary academic, vocational and technical skills, and knowledge needed to gain meaningful employment and exercise the rights and responsibilities of tribal and national citizenship.
- Goal 9 By the year 2010, schools serving Native children will be required to effectively meet the academic, cultural, spiritual and social needs of students for developing strong, healthy, self-sufficient communities.
- Goal 10 By the year 2010, a statewide plan will be developed and implemented to provide a program for successful conflict resolution and to educate youth on developing and interacting with students of other ethnic groups and prevention of at school violence and youth alienation.
- Goal 11 By the year 2010, every school responsible for educating Native students will provide opportunities for Native parents and tribal leaders to assist in planning and evaluation of governance, operation, and performance of their educational programs.
- Goal 12 By the year 2004, the Nevada Board of Education and the Nevada Department of Education will have a active and cooperative partnership with the Advisory Committee on Indian Education to effectuate results oriented outcomes to address the issues listed on Attachment B.
- Goal 13 By the year 2006, a state office on Indian Education for Nevada will be developed under the Nevada Indian Commission.
- Goal 14 By the year 2010 each school district will have a specific voting member seat for an Indian Education representative and will provide American Indian and Alaskan Native students access to a Counselor experienced on Indian Education



Additional Recommendations

- Policy Statement Supporting Indian Education in Nevada
- Policy on Racial Conflict Resolution for Nevada Schools (Consider Model Programs and Best Practices in other states)
- Development of an Office on Indian Education for Nevada (similar to New Mexico or other states)



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