

V. REMEDIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

BACKGROUND

A component of the Nevada Education Reform Act of 1997 provided, for the first time, specific state funding to assist students in low-performing schools. Although the statewide proficiency program for many decades has required districts to provide such students with remedial assistance, the expectation was that needed funding was provided through the state guarantee for per-pupil funding and was not specifically allocated as a separate appropriation. The provisions of the Nevada Education Reform Act (NERA) provided a method to identify schools needing improvement, a source of state funding to assist them, the identification of effective remedial programs, and technical assistance and continued remedial program funding for those schools with continuing problems. As the new academic standards have been adopted, such funding is becoming more important as districts assist each student with the skills needed to attain those standards. In the process of applying for specific funding sources for the assistance that such schools require, a number of school and district administrators have begun to coordinate all sources of remedial funding as part of an overall school improvement plan. Such plans identify specific problem areas of academic achievement; then establish specific remedies for those problems using available funding in a coordinated manner. The following presents the amount of state and Federal funding made available specifically to schools and school districts for remediation purposes:

Federal Title I Funds

Each school district in Nevada receives a Title I allocation based upon the number of students at poverty level in the district. Upon receipt of the allocation, the district is required to pay all Title I services that are provided throughout the district, including Title I teachers' salaries. Once all district-wide Title I services have been paid, school allocations are made based upon the number of students at poverty level in each school. The data utilized in ranking the schools is contained in the Annual Poverty Count Report (APCR). The Title I appropriation is a per-pupil amount, which is the same for all schools. Once all Title I funds have been exhausted, the remaining schools continue to be Title I eligible, but receive no funding for that year. Each year, all Title I schools are re-ranked according to the APCR and appropriations are made as noted above.

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Comprehensive School Reform (CSR) Funds

Federal CSR funds were made available to schools for the first time in FY 1998-99. Comprehensive school reform allows teachers, administrators, parents, and policymakers to improve all aspects of a school's operations. It is believed that by addressing curriculum and instruction, teacher training, parental involvement, funding issues, and school management, schools can better improve student learning. Any school may apply for the funds and distribution of funds to schools is on a competitive basis. Pre-applications are reviewed and scored by a panel comprised by the NDE. Schools selected by the review panel then complete a formal application and submit it to the NDE. The same review panel convenes to review the applications and a final selection is made. The CSR funds are then distributed directly to the school sites chosen.

State Remediation Funds For Low-Performing Schools

The Nevada Education Reform Act of 1997 provided remediation funds for low-performing schools. These funds must be used to purchase programs of remedial study that have proven to be successful in improving the academic achievement of pupils in the subject areas of reading, writing, mathematics, and science. Schools must select such programs from Nevada's *List of Effective Remediation Programs*, published annually. During FY 1997-1998, schools that were designated as demonstrating "need for improvement" were eligible for funding (designations are made when more than 40 percent of the pupils enrolled in a school score in the bottom quarter in all four subject areas tested on the state-required norm-referenced examination). During the 1999 Legislative Session, funding was expanded to include certain schools that have been designated as having adequate achievement as follows: (1) a school that did not receive a designation because the school had too few pupils enrolled in a grade level that is tested, but the test scores of the pupils indicate that the school would have received a designation as demonstrating need for improvement; (2) a school that has more than 40 percent of the pupils enrolled in the school with an average score in the bottom quarter in three of four subjects tested; and (3) a school that was designated as demonstrating "need for improvement" in the immediately preceding school year.

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During the 2001 Legislative Session, funding was expanded again to include a school that has more than 40 percent of the pupils enrolled in the school with an average score in the bottom quarter in one or more of four subjects tested.

Schools that are eligible for state remediation funds submit an application to the NDE on May 1 of each year. A review committee, which includes representatives of the NDE, the Budget Division of Nevada's Department of Administration, and the Legislative Bureau of Educational Accountability and Program Evaluation of the Fiscal Analysis Division, is convened to examine the requests and make recommendations on the amount of funding needed by each school. Recommendations for funding are reviewed by the State Board of Examiners and approved by the Interim Finance Committee. Schools receive remediation funding in July of each year and implement the funded remediation program(s) in the fall.

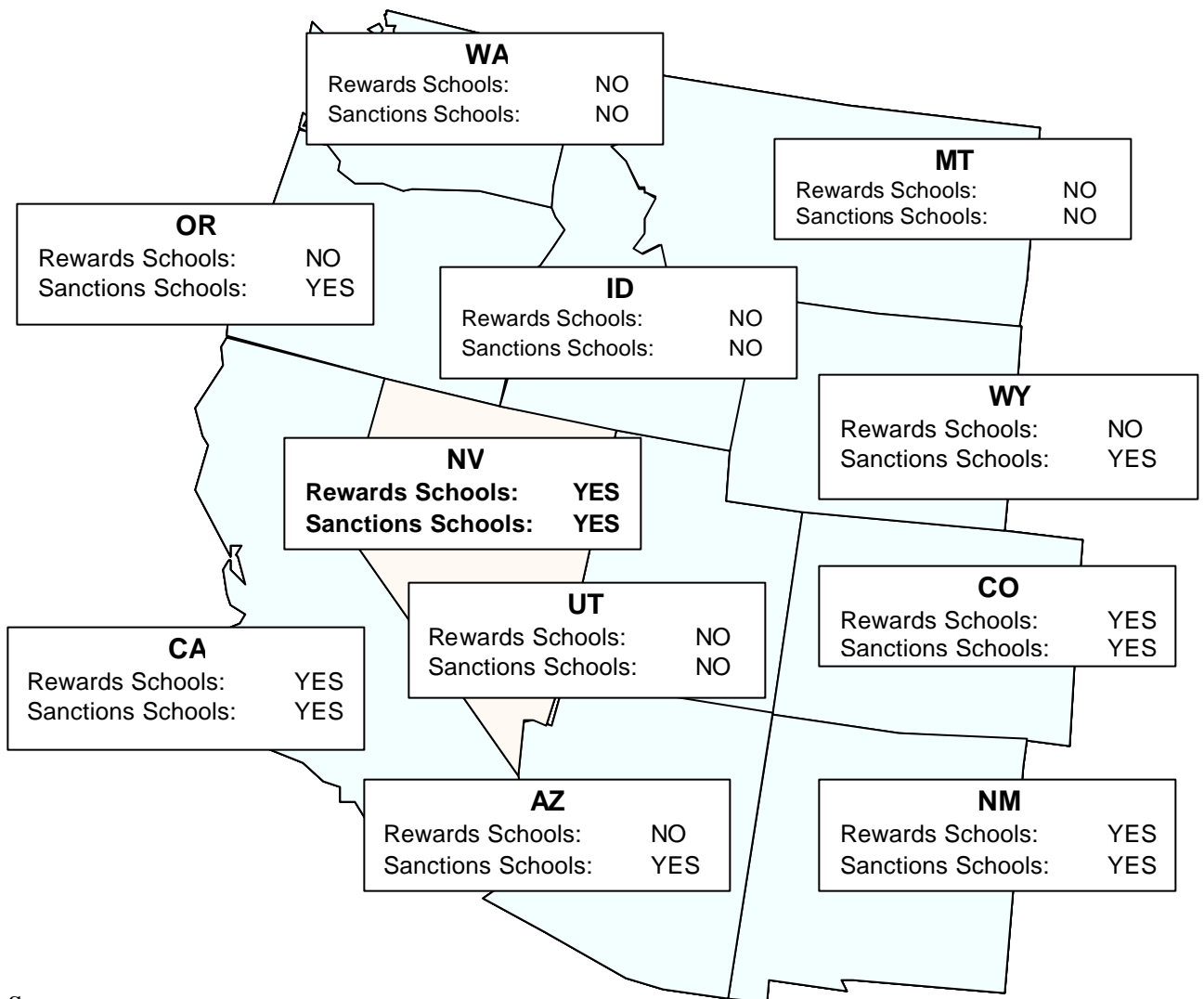
State Remediation Funds for At-Risk Pupils: (Before-School, After-School, Intersession, Summer School)

In addition to authorizing state remediation funds for low-performing schools, the 1999 Legislature authorized, for the first time, remediation funds for remedial education programs or tutoring for pupils who need additional instructional time in order to pass or to reach a level considered proficient. Programs may be targeted to any age group, but must be conducted before or after school, on weekends, during the summer, or between sessions in schools with year-round school calendars. In addition, these funds must be used to provide remedial education programs or tutoring programs that have been approved by the NDE as being effective in improving pupil achievement. Any school district or charter school in the State of Nevada is eligible to apply for state remediation funds for at-risk pupils. A review committee, similar to that convened for school remediation funds, examines the requests and makes recommendations on the amount of funding needed by each school district. Recommendations for funding are reviewed by the State Board of Examiners and approved by the Interim Finance Committee. School districts and charter schools receive remediation funding in July of each year and implement the funded remediation program(s) in the fiscal year in which the funds are received.

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REWARDS AND SANCTIONS FOR SCHOOLS

State policymakers are increasingly focusing their attention on holding schools accountable for the performance of their students. Two mechanisms for ensuring such accountability are rewards and sanctions. States reward schools by providing monetary and non-monetary rewards. States also sanction schools; types of sanctions range from a written warning to a state takeover of a school. The following provides information on which of the western states provide rewards and sanctions to schools.

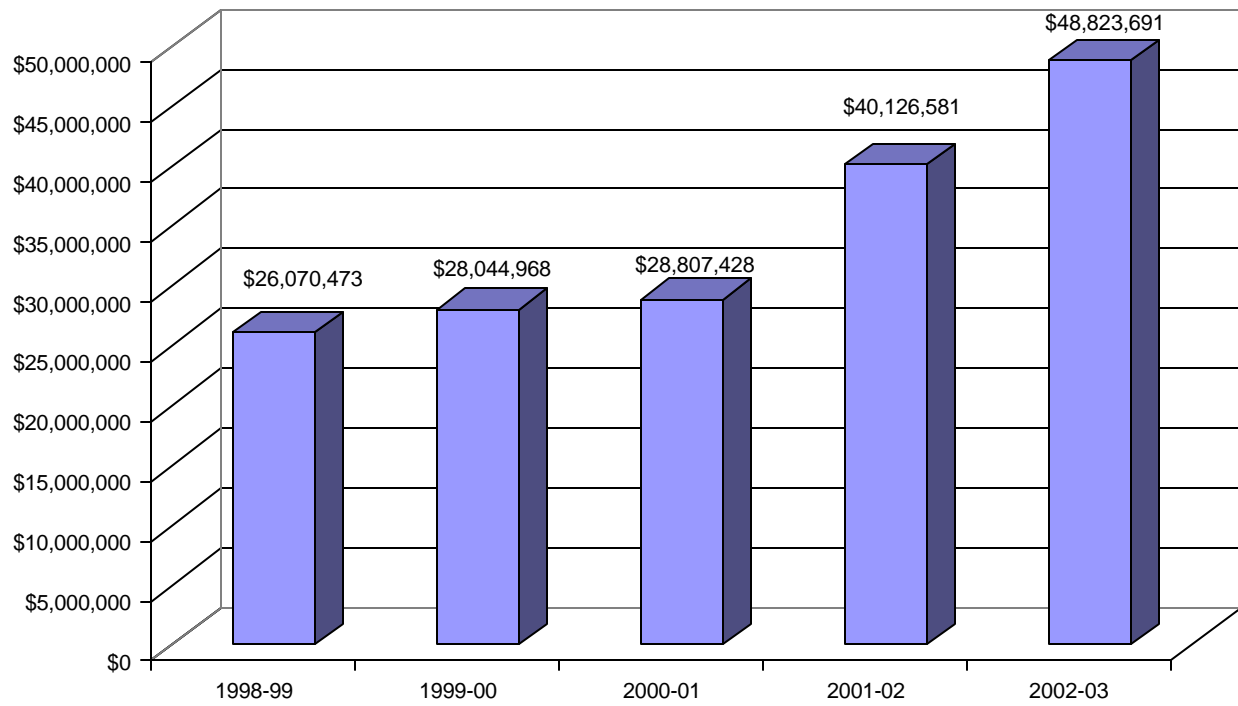


Source:
Education Commission of the States, *Accountability-Rewards & Sanctions*, August 2002

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REMEDATION FUNDING

Nevada Public Schools - Remediation Funding: Federal (Title I-Part A and Comprehensive School Reform) and State (Low Performing Schools and At-Risk Pupils) FYs 1999 - 2003

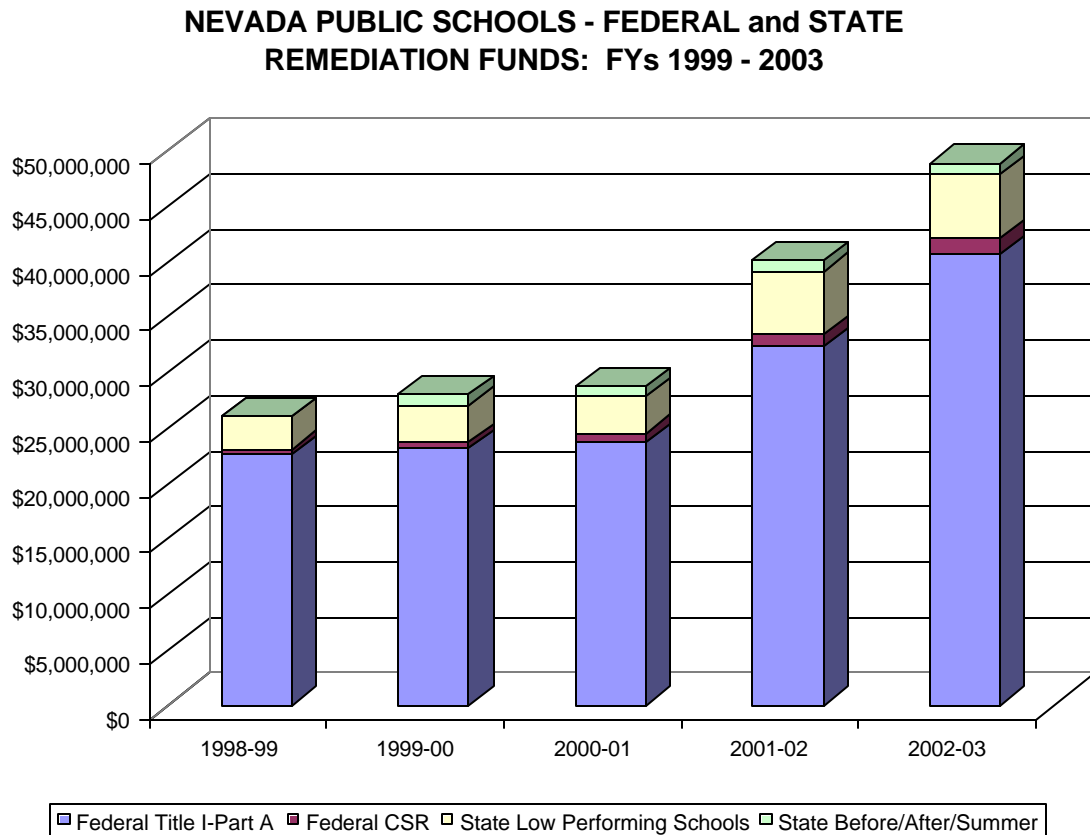


Source: Nevada Department of Education, 2003.



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REMEDATION FUND SOURCES

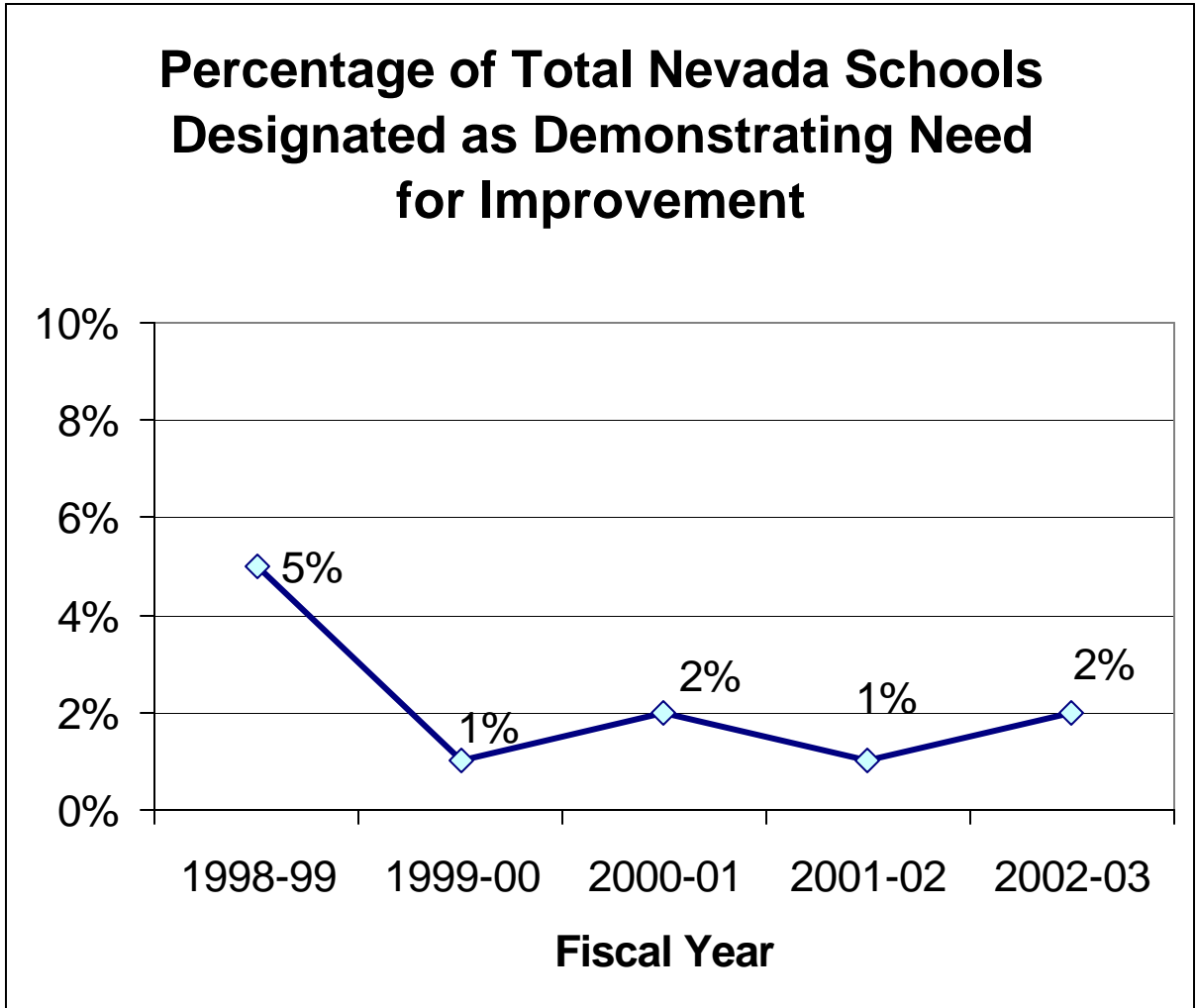


| Fiscal Year | Federal Title I | Federal CSRD | State Low Performing Schools | State Before/After/Summer School | Total – All Remediation Funds |
|-------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1998-99 | \$22,570,473 | \$500,000 | \$3,000,000 | NA | \$26,070,473 |
| 1999-00 | \$23,244,968 | \$500,000 | \$3,300,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$28,044,968 |
| 2000-01 | \$23,707,428 | \$800,000 | \$3,300,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$28,807,428 |
| 2001-02 | \$32,381,713 | \$994,868 | \$5,750,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$40,126,581 |
| 2002-03 | \$40,690,971 | \$1,382,720 | \$5,750,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$48,823,691 |

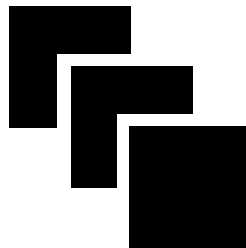
Source: Nevada Department of Education, 200

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SCHOOLS SERVED



Source: Nevada Department of Education, 2002.



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SCHOOLS SERVED & SOURCES

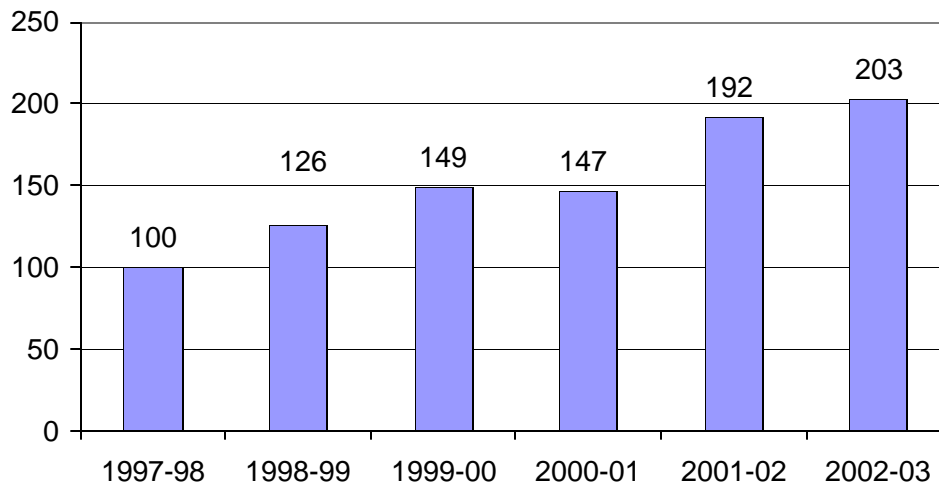
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS SERVED WITH FEDERAL AND STATE REMEDATION FUNDS

| Type of Remediation Funding | Amount of Funds/ Number of Schools* | 1997-98 | 1998-99 | 1999-00 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 |
|-----------------------------------|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Title I | Funding | \$22,398,744 | \$22,570,473 | \$23,244,968 | \$23,707,428 | \$32,381,713 | \$40,690,971 |
| | # Schools | 92 | 95 | 100 | 104 | 103 | 118 |
| CSRD | Funding | \$500,000 | \$500,000 | \$800,000 | \$800,000 | \$994,868 | \$1,382,720 |
| | # Schools | 8 | 8 | 13 | 13 | 9 | 10 |
| State (low-performing schools) | Funding | NA | \$3,000,000 | \$3,300,000 | \$3,300,000 | \$5,750,000 | \$5,750,000 |
| | # Schools | NA | 23 | 36 | 30 | 80 | 75 |
| TOTAL | Funding | \$22,898,744 | \$26,070,473 | \$27,344,968 | \$27,807,428 | \$39,126,581 | \$47,823,691 |
| | # Schools | 100 | 126 | 149 | 147 | 192 | 203 |

*NOTE: The number of schools receiving remediation funds is not an unduplicated count; some schools receive funding from two or more remediation sources.

Source: Nevada Department of Education, 2002.

Number of Schools Served with Federal and State Remediation Funds



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SCHOOLS DESIGNATED

NEVADA PUBLIC SCHOOLS: DESIGNATIONS OF ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT (FISCAL YEARS 1999 – 2003)

| FISCAL YEAR | EXEMPLARY | HIGH | ADEQUATE | IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT |
|-------------|-----------|------|----------|------------------------|
| 2002-03 | 3 | 6 | 502 | 10** |
| 2001-02 | 5 | 7 | 487 | 7 |
| 2000-01 | 2 | 8 | 465 | 10 |
| 1999-00 | NA | 2 | 463 | 6* |
| 1998-99 | NA | 2 | 427 | 23 |

* Includes one school that had too few students to be officially designated.

** Includes one school that tested too few pupils for two or more consecutive years (NRS 385.368)

NEVADA LOW PERFORMING SCHOOLS

| | In Need of Improvement (40% or More Students Scoring in the Bottom Quarter in all Four Subject Areas) | | | | | Bubble Schools (40% or More Students Scoring in the Bottom Quarter in Three of Four Subject Areas) | | | | |
|-------------------|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| School Year | 1998-1999 | 1999-2000 | 2000-2001 | 2001-2002 | 2002-2003 | 1998-1999 | 1999-2000 | 2000-2001 | 2001-2002 | 2002-2003 |
| Number of Schools | 23 | 6* | 10 | 7 | 10** | NA | 16 | 17 | 11 | 23 |

* Includes one school that had too few students to be officially designated.

** Includes one school that tested too few pupils for two or more consecutive years (NRS 385.368)

Source: Nevada Department of Education



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PERFORMANCE-SCHOOLS NEEDING IMPROVEMENT

PERFORMANCE BY SCHOOLS DESIGNATED AS DEMONSTRATING NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT IN SCHOOL YEAR 1998-03

| SCHOOLS | DESIGNATION STATUS | | | | |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| | 1998-99 | 1999-00 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 |
| E.C. Best Elementary (Churchill) | In Need of Improvement | Adequate | Adequate | Adequate | Adequate |
| Western High School (Clark) | In Need of Improvement | Adequate | Adequate | Adequate | Adequate |
| Cashman Middle School (Clark) | In Need of Improvement | Adequate | Adequate | Adequate | Adequate |
| Martin Middle School (Clark) | In Need of Improvement | Adequate | In Need of Improvement | In Need of Improvement | Adequate |
| Smith Middle School (Clark) | In Need of Improvement | Adequate | Adequate | Adequate | Adequate |
| Booker Elementary (Clark) | In Need of Improvement | In Need of Improvement | Adequate | Adequate | Adequate |
| Bracken Elementary (Clark) | In Need of Improvement | Adequate | Adequate | Adequate | Adequate |
| Cambeiro Elementary (Clark) | In Need of Improvement | Adequate | Adequate | Adequate | Adequate |
| Fitzgerald Elementary (Clark) | In Need of Improvement | In Need of Improvement | In Need of Improvement | In Need of Improvement | Adequate |
| Lynch Elementary (Clark) | In Need of Improvement | Adequate | Adequate | In Need of Improvement | In Need of Improvement |
| Madison Elementary (Clark) | In Need of Improvement | In Need of Improvement | In Need of Improvement | Adequate | Adequate |
| Sunrise Acres Elem. (Clark) | In Need of Improvement | Adequate | Adequate | Adequate | Adequate |
| Thomas Elementary (Clark) | In Need of Improvement | Adequate | Adequate | Adequate | Adequate |
| Woolley Elementary (Clark) | In Need of Improvement | Adequate | Adequate | Adequate | Adequate |
| Owyhee Elementary (Elko) | In Need of Improvement | Adequate | Adequate | Adequate | Adequate |
| Booth Elementary (Washoe) | In Need of Improvement | Adequate | Adequate | Adequate | Adequate |
| Corbett Elementary (Washoe) | In Need of Improvement | Adequate | Adequate | Adequate | Adequate |
| Duncan Elementary (Washoe) | In Need of Improvement | Adequate | Adequate | Adequate | Adequate |
| Johnson Elementary (Washoe) | In Need of Improvement | Adequate | Adequate | Adequate | In Need of Improvement |
| Loder Elementary (Washoe) | In Need of Improvement | Adequate | In Need of Improvement | Adequate | Adequate |
| Mathews Elementary (Washoe) | In Need of Improvement | Adequate | Adequate | Adequate | Adequate |
| Palmer Elementary (Washoe) | In Need of Improvement | Adequate | Adequate | Adequate | Adequate |
| Risley Elementary (Washoe) | In Need of Improvement | Adequate | Adequate | Adequate | Adequate |
| TOTAL (In Need of Improvement) | 23 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 2 |

Source: Nevada Department of Education

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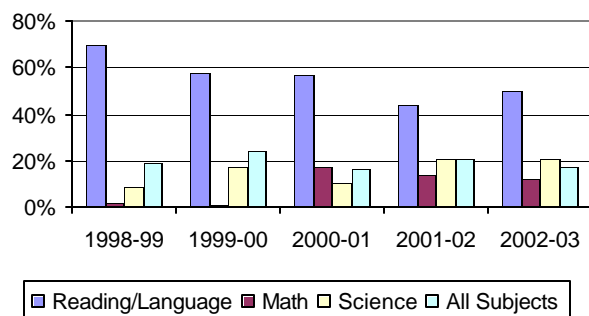
REMEDATION FUNDING METHODS

Efforts Taken By Staff Of Low-Performing Schools To Increase Student Achievement

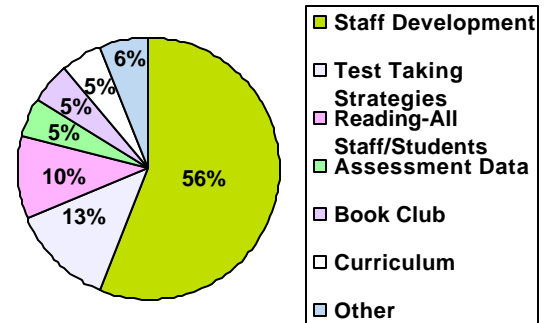
Most Frequent Responses
(n = 42 schools; 83 responses)

- ?? Implementation of an Effective Remediation Program (100%)
- ?? Staff Development for Teachers in Improving Instructional Practices (56%; n = 47)
- ?? Test Taking Strategies were Taught to Students (13%; n = 11)
- ?? Implemented Reading for All Staff/Students (10%; n = 8)
- ?? Change in Curriculum (5%; n = 4)
- ?? Utilized Assessment Data to Determine Strengths and Weaknesses of Students (5%; n = 4)
- ?? Implemented Book Club (5%; n=4)
- ?? Other (6%; n = 5)

State Remediation Funds By Subject Area



Other Efforts to Increase Student Achievement



Source: Survey of Low-Performing Schools, 2002. LeBEAPE.