



Washoe County School District
Every Child, By Name And Face, To Graduation™

2014

Washoe County School District

Zoom SCHOOL

Program Information and Zoom School Profiles



Anderson Elementary School

Bernice Mathews Elementary School

Echo Loder Elementary School

Glenn Duncan STEM Academy

Roger Corbett Elementary School

Veterans Memorial STEM Academy

EXHIBIT J-1 - EDUCATION
Document consists of 8 pages.
Entire exhibit provided.
Meeting Date: 07-15-14



A message from our Superintendent



While we are proud of the progress we are making in our schools, we know that we need to do better with

our English Language Learner (ELL) students. Providing early assistance to these students is critical, and our goal is to get all of our students reading at level by the 3rd grade. This is a key milestone on the path to college and career readiness. That is why we are so grateful to the 2013 State Legislators for passing Senate Bill 504, which makes a significant investment in the early development of ELL students for the first time in Nevada's history. Given that the percentage of English Language Learner students in Washoe County is growing, it is more important than ever to create targeted programs that help to set these students up for long term academic success.

— Pedro Martinez,
WCSD Superintendent

What is a Zoom School ?

Washoe County School District received state funding for a 2-year pilot program during the '13-'14 and '14-'15 school years that provides increased support to schools with high percentages of English Language Learner students.

The goal of the program is to ensure that all students, regardless of background, are reading at grade level by 3rd grade. The elementary schools in this "Zoom" pilot program offer instructional help to enable students to overcome literacy and language acquisition barriers. Specifically, Zoom schools:

- Offer **Pre-K** classes
- Provide **full-day** Kindergarten
- Implement a **Reading Skills Program**
- Conduct **Intersession** and **Summer Academy** programs

How were Zoom Schools selected in WCSD?

Six schools were selected to participate in the pilot based upon the following criteria:

- School serves **50%** or more English Language Learner students
- Earned **one, two, or three stars** on the State Performance Framework
- Included in WCSD's **Acceleration Zone** of schools (lower-performing schools that have been identified for increased intervention).



About the WCSD Zoom School Program

Pre-Kindergarten:

Zoom funding is enabling early childhood education for 165 students in Washoe County School District.

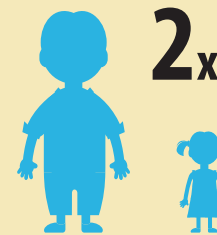
WCSD Pre-K students gain important school readiness skills through enriched high quality Pre-K programming. The program incorporates curricula that is based on the Nevada Pre-Kindergarten Content Standards. The Pre-K classrooms have learning centers that promote pre-reading and writing skills, math, movement, language, literacy, science, art, music, self-help skills and socialization. This type of environment and curriculum provides Pre-K children with the skills to be successful in kindergarten. The program is 2.5 hours per day, 4 days per week.

In addition to classroom instruction for Pre-K students, the Pre-K program provides ongoing parenting education that includes family literacy events, parent-child activities, and a variety of parent workshops. Parents set literacy goals, attend Family workshops and agree to increase Parent and Child Time (PACT) and reading time.



Student practicing early literacy skills

Did you know... that students from high-income families have an advantage when they enter school?



3 year olds from high income families have vocabularies that are 2x larger than low income families

Data Source: Betty Hart and Todd R. Risley, "The Early Catastrophe"

English Language Learner students at Title I schools have additional challenges because often they are not exposed to the same number of words.

The goal of the Zoom Pre-K and Full Day Kindergarten programs is to significantly reduce these gaps.

Full Day Kindergarten:

The WCSD Kindergarten Programs use developmentally appropriate practices based on the Nevada Academic Content Standards in conjunction with the aligned WIDA Standards (which are standards that focus on academic language development and academic achievement for linguistically diverse students). Kindergarten instruction includes teacher directed small group activities, whole group experiences, one-on-one intervention, and explorations in center based environments. Daily curriculum integrates academic instruction with the creative arts, social emotional and physical development in order to support learning for the whole child.

Zoom funds are helping over 550 kindergarteners in Washoe County School District this year!

Elementary Schools	Full K	Student: Teacher Ratio
Anderson Elementary School	86	17:1
Bernice Mathews Elementary School	116	19:1
Echo Loder Elementary School	112	22:1
Glenn Duncan STEM Academy	75	19:1
Roger Corbett Elementary School	97	19:1
Veterans Memorial STEM Academy	65	16:1



Interactive learning engages students in the classroom



A message from our Area Superintendent

The Zoom Schools initiative represents a major strategic effort by our State to ensure our English language learners are gaining the necessary skills to graduate on time and college and career ready. Washoe County School District's six Zoom schools are fully committed to improving student achievement by fostering a rich learning environment for all. These elementary schools, Anderson, Corbett, Duncan, Loder, Mathews and Veterans, are excited to be leading the Zoom initiative in our district. We will be closely monitoring student achievement in reading and language development, and we look forward to improved student outcomes we can all be proud of!

— Debra Biersdorff, Area Superintendent for Acceleration Zone



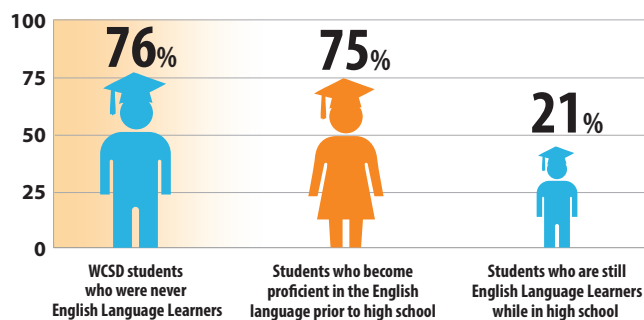
Students get help from their teachers to improve reading skills

Reading Skills

Strong reading skills are necessary for success in school and for graduating with promising college or career opportunities. The sooner we help our young students become great readers, the quicker they can move beyond learning how to read and focus on learning academic content. Better readers leads to smarter students.

The WCSD Zoom Reading Skills program will help to boost reading achievement by adding extra staff into classrooms to assist with strategic guided reading instruction. During guided reading, students receive personalized instruction that is tailored to their reading level and focused upon the specific reading skills each child must master in order to access more challenging texts. Guided reading also serves as an excellent diagnostic exercise to ensure that students are making steady progress towards reading proficiency.

2013 Graduation Success Rates for English Language Proficiency



The graph above shows how important it is for students to become proficient in the English language as early as possible. There is a dramatic decrease in the graduation rate between students who were proficient before entering high school and those who are still considered English Language Learners in high school.



A message from WCSD's Board of Trustees Representative on the English Mastery Council

I know that a school principal with a deep knowledge of instructional strategies in reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills for

all students can lead to school success. Additionally, under effective leadership, a school-wide intensive plan focusing on the development of both language acquisition and literacy skills for all children will increase student achievement. By effectively utilizing resources, such as time, people, and materials, as well as building the capacity of our teachers through job-embedded professional development in the pursuit of meeting the needs of all students in these critical learning areas, we will have success in our Zoom schools. Additionally, meaningful engagement of our parents, families, and wider community in this effort assures us of meeting both short and long term goals and provides the support and commitment necessary to continue growth and improvement.

— Barbara McLaury, Vice President WCSD Board of Trustees



Left: Zoom teacher assistant training

Below: Reading instruction during winter intersession



Intersession Activities and Summer Academy

WCSD's new balanced calendar provides breaks throughout the year. All Zoom schools are using intersession time to offer extra learning opportunities for students. Recent intersession activities have included guided reading, science and math instruction, and enrichment activities.

Each Zoom school will also be encouraging students to attend a 5 week Summer Academy from June 23 - July 25, 2014 to receive additional instruction aimed at improving literacy skills and expanding vocabulary. Additionally, several Zoom schools will provide families with access to the school library during the summer break.



WCSD Performance Framework

Anderson Elementary School Profile

Grades K-6 • 441 Students



Percentage of students who:
IEP: Have an Individualized Education Plan
ELL: Are English Language Learners
FRL: Qualify for Free/Reduced lunch



Joe Ernst,
Anderson ES Principal

Anderson Elementary School is extremely excited to be chosen as a Zoom School.

We have already begun to see a positive impact the funding is having on our students. With smaller student to teacher ratios our kindergartners have shown outstanding growth in reading, with nearly 80% of our students on the pathway to meet grade

level standards by the end of the school year. The reading centers will further extend our capacity to provide targeted small group English Language Arts instruction with highly trained teacher assistants. The additional Zoom funding allows us to purchase materials to support students understanding of new Nevada Academic Content Standards, beginning with greater proficiency in understanding letter/sound relationships all way to becoming more proficient in reading new and relevant informational text. We also provided our first intercession of the year; students were motivated and greatly benefitted from the extra time at school. At Anderson ES we are appreciative of Zoom funding and can already see the substantial impact on student learning.

— Joe Ernst, Principal of Anderson Elementary School

Proficiency Level

	ELL	Anderson ES	WCSD
Reading	33%	56%	70%
Math	49%	64%	73%

Median Growth*

	ELL	Anderson ES	WCSD
Reading	48	49	54
Math	51	58	54

*Growth = progress made by a student year to year relative to academic peers



WCSD Performance Framework

Bernice Mathews Elementary School Profile

Grades K-5 • 651 Students



Percentage of students who:
IEP: Have an Individualized Education Plan
ELL: Are English Language Learners
FRL: Qualify for Free/Reduced lunch



Heidi Gavrilles,
Mathews ES Principal

Nevada is making the commitment to provide a good foundation for early success for our students.

Zoom is allowing us to focus on early intervention. Past initiatives and accountability systems have forced us to focus energy and resources beginning at third grade. That short-sighted approach often left our

struggling young learners waiting until third grade for intensive intervention. This school year we had fewer than 3% of our kindergarten students beginning the year with the kindergarten readiness skills to be considered "on level." Schools struggle to catch them up and often are unable to do so by third grade. With Zoom, our children will have the benefit of effective PK-2 support, and will never be behind. This proactive approach will benefit Nevada's children immensely. Zoom is the educational equivalent of an "ounce of prevention being worth a pound of cure." At Mathews Elementary School we are using Zoom funds to provide Pre K programming; intercession during school breaks in the winter, spring and summer; small group reading for K-2; and leveled reading materials.

— Heidi Gavrilles, Principal of Bernice Mathews Elementary School

Proficiency Level

	ELL	Mathews ES	WCSD
Reading	38%	51%	70%
Math	49%	56%	73%

Median Growth*

	ELL	Mathews ES	WCSD
Reading	44	44	54
Math	39	40	54

*Growth = progress made by a student year to year relative to academic peers



WCSD Performance Framework

Echo Loder Elementary School Profile

Grades K-6 • 567 Students



Percentage of students who:
IEP: Have an Individualized Education Plan
ELL: Are English Language Learners
FRL: Qualify for Free/Reduced lunch



Dina Ciaramella,
Loder ES Principal

Echo Loder Elementary will benefit a great deal from the state Zoom funding initiative.

These funds allow us to provide an academic learning experience for our youngest students in preschool all the way to our transitional learners in third grade. The class size reduction in our kindergarten classrooms promotes a learning environment that meets the

individual needs of every student and provides multiple opportunities to practice and improve upon speaking and language skills. We know through copious amounts of research data that students have a greater chance of graduating from high school and becoming college and career ready when they have been exposed to academic language and school environments at an early age. Along with the emphasis on Early Childhood education, the Reading Centers offer additional focused interventions for students in grades Kindergarten through third grade. These centers will support us in our continuous efforts in closing the achievement gap. Echo Loder looks forward to tracking the success of our students as they continue to grow and benefit from the Zoom Funding initiative.

— Dina Ciaramella, Principal of Echo Loder Elementary School

Proficiency Level

	ELL	Loder ES	WCSD
Reading	41%	53%	70%
Math	58%	65%	73%

Median Growth*

	ELL	Loder ES	WCSD
Reading	48	49	54
Math	35	36	54

*Growth = progress made by a student year to year relative to academic peers



WCSD Performance Framework

Glenn Duncan STEM Academy Profile

Grades K-5 • 439 Students



Percentage of students who:
IEP: Have an Individualized Education Plan
ELL: Are English Language Learners
FRL: Qualify for Free/Reduced lunch



Susan Kehoe,
Duncan ES Principal

I am pleased that Glenn Duncan STEM Academy is one of six recipients in Washoe County to receive Zoom funding for the 2013-14 and 2014-15 school years.

Research has clearly demonstrated the importance of high quality early childhood education and its strong influence on children's later development and learning.

Zoom funding will allow us to focus more efforts on our Pre-Kindergarten through 3rd grade in a number of ways. In addition to our Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten teachers being funded by Zoom, I am very excited that Zoom is funding three Teacher Assistants and a shared Reading Facilitator at Duncan. This will allow us to provide more targeted reading instruction and support to our primary students. Two weeks of Intersession and five weeks of Summer Academy during each year will also allow our teachers to provide additional instruction with the goal of increasing students' reading proficiency. These supports would not be possible without the benefit of Zoom funding.

— Susan Kehoe, Principal of Glenn Duncan STEM Academy

Proficiency Level

	ELL	Duncan ES	WCSD
Reading	42%	44%	70%
Math	52%	54%	73%

Median Growth*

	ELL	Duncan ES	WCSD
Reading	43	43	54
Math	28	32	54

*Growth = progress made by a student year to year relative to academic peers



WCSD Performance Framework

Roger Corbett Elementary School Profile Grades K-6 • 480 Students



Percentage of students who:
IEP: Have an Individualized Education Plan
ELL: Are English Language Learners
FRL: Qualify for Free/Reduced lunch



Denise DuFrene,
Corbett ES Principal

Our school is excited for Zoom and how this initiative is supporting our students academically.

Students and their families access pre-school to gain readiness skills, increase their English language development and prepare them for Kindergarten.

Students in our Pre-K class receive developmentally appropriate instruction in math and reading.

For our students in K-3 who need additional support, they are receiving intensive, small group instruction to meet their needs, which will allow them to become proficient readers. This funding gives the students the support they need in the early grades so that their reading skills are supported before they get into the upper grades. Zoom will make a difference for the students at Corbett because the funding gives our students the access to Pre-school and reading intervention support in the early years of schooling. We are thankful for this money!

— Denise DuFrene, Principal of Roger Corbett Elementary School

Proficiency Level

	ELL	Corbett ES	WCSD
Reading	29%	45%	70%
Math	46%	55%	73%

Median Growth*

	ELL	Corbett ES	WCSD
Reading	51	53	54
Math	34	38	54

*Growth = progress made by a student year to year relative to academic peers



WCSD Performance Framework

Veterans Memorial STEM Academy School Profile Grades K-6 • 404 Students



Percentage of students who:
IEP: Have an Individualized Education Plan
ELL: Are English Language Learners
FRL: Qualify for Free/Reduced lunch



Jenni Anderson,
Veterans ES Principal

Veterans Memorial STEM Academy has been serving the students of WCSD since 1948.

Our amazing staff works to ensure that students are continuously engaged in high level learning activities throughout the instructional day. The majority of our student population comes from Spanish speaking homes. Utilizing strategies suited for English

Language Learners is a must. This is imperative not only for our bilingual students, but also for our students who come from families living in poverty. The Zoom funding that has been allocated for Veterans allows for us to bring on additional staff to support our diverse learners. Two additional teaching assistants will mean smaller group sizes for classroom instruction as well as intervention. Our school is spending significant time refocusing on core classroom instruction and our guided reading practices. With the addition of this new staff, our implementation will be seamless as students receive instruction from either classroom teachers or support staff.

— Jenni Anderson, Principal of Veterans Memorial STEM Academy

Proficiency Level

	ELL	Veterans	WCSD
Reading	44%	59%	70%
Math	46%	63%	73%

Median Growth*

	ELL	Veterans	WCSD
Reading	55	55	54
Math	54	55	54

*Growth = progress made by a student year to year relative to academic peers



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Washoe County School District
425 East 9th Street • P.O. Box 30425
Reno, NV 89520-3425
(775) 348-0200
www.washoecountyschools.org