

GOVERNANCE

Nevada's system of public elementary and secondary education has its basis in the state *Constitution*. The Legislature is responsible for establishing Nevada's public school system and enacting relevant laws. *Nevada's Department of Education (NDE)*, headed by the superintendent of public instruction, is charged with carrying out those laws, with oversight provided by the State Board of Education. The Department is responsible for regulating and supporting the state's 17 school districts, as well as charter schools.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Charter schools are independent public schools, responsible for their own governance and operation. In exchange for this independence, charter schools are under increased scrutiny of their performance. In Nevada, charter schools operate under performance-based contracts and are sponsored by school districts, universities, or the *State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA)*. The SPCSA has "Local Educational Agency" status so that it may function more like a school district, particularly with regard to the receipt of federal education funding.

QUICK FACTS

- **Total statewide student enrollment** for School Year (SY) 2018–2019 was approximately **493,000 students**.
- The student **graduation rate** for SY 2019–2020 was **84.1 percent**, representing an increase of 21.5 percent since SY 2011–2012. The **drop-out rate** for SY 2019–2020 was **2.3 percent**, representing a decrease of 0.5 percent since SY 2014–2015.
- **Student achievement in reading** in 2019 (proficient or better) was **31 percent for grade 4** (same as 2017) and **29 percent for grade 8** (up 1 percent from 2017).
- **Student achievement in math** in 2019 (proficient or better) was **35 percent for grade 4** (up 4 percent from 2017) and **26 percent for grade 8** (down 2 percent from 2017).
- The *National Education Association (NEA)* reported Nevada's SY 2018–2019 **per pupil K–12 spending at \$9,847**, while the national average was \$12,978. Nevada ranked 44th among all states in per pupil K–12 spending.
- The total **number of teachers in Nevada was 27,056** for SY 2019–2020. The NEA reported Nevada's **average teacher salary at \$55,950** for SY 2018–2019; the national average was \$62,304. Nevada ranked 25th among all states in salaries of public school teachers.

Sources: *Nevada Report Card*; *National Education Association*

KEY RESOURCES

NEVADA'S DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

www.doe.nv.gov

STATE PUBLIC CHARTER
SCHOOL AUTHORITY

charterschools.nv.gov

NEVADA REPORT CARD

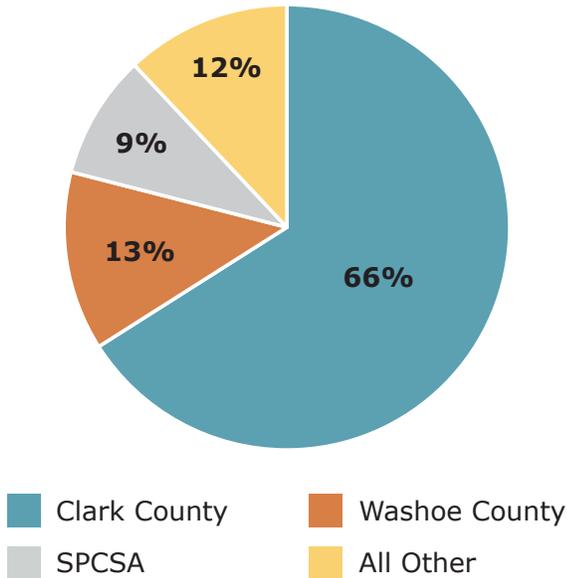
nevadareportcard.nv.gov/di/

*Additional resources from
the Research Division:*

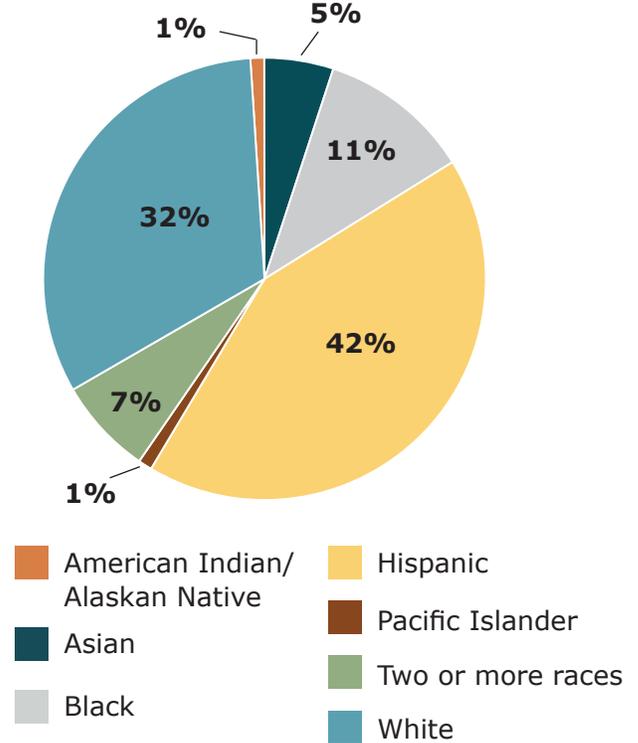
[leg.state.nv.us/Division/Research/
Content/education](http://leg.state.nv.us/Division/Research/Content/education)

PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT IN NEVADA, SY 2018–2019

BY SCHOOL DISTRICT



BY ETHNICITY



Source: *Nevada Report Card*

SELECTED POLICY TOPICS AND RECENT LEGISLATION

School Funding

With the passage of [Senate Bill 543](#), the 2019 Legislature authorized a new funding formula—called the *Pupil-Centered Funding Plan*—to replace the currently used *Nevada Plan* starting on July 1, 2021. Stakeholders continue to discuss the various components of the new formula and make recommendations concerning its implementation, in order to ensure a smooth transition to the new funding method.

Student Safety and Well-Being

Over the past few sessions, policymakers have funded programs to enhance student safety and well-being, including enhanced security at schools, implementation of social and emotional learning standards, and increased staffing for social workers and school resource officers. Programs like these may continue to be examined in order to determine how they may best be leveraged to improve outcomes for students.

STUDENT SAFETY AND WELL-BEING: SELECTED RECENT LEGISLATION

School safety omnibus bill:

[Senate Bill 89](#) (2019)

Protection from abuse and misconduct:

Assembly Bills [305](#) and [362](#) (2017)

Senate Bills [213](#) and [287](#) (2017)

Protection from bullying and cyber-bullying:

[Senate Bill 504](#) (2015)

[Assembly Bill 292](#) (2017)

[Senate Bill 225](#) (2017)

[Senate Bill 239](#) (2019)