



Fact Sheet

FACTS ABOUT ELEMENTARY-SECONDARY EDUCATION

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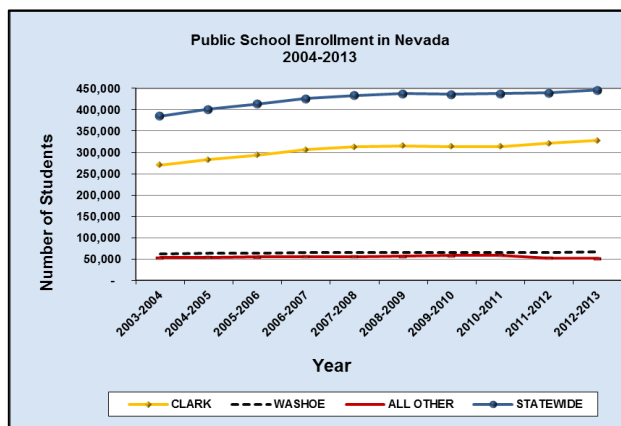
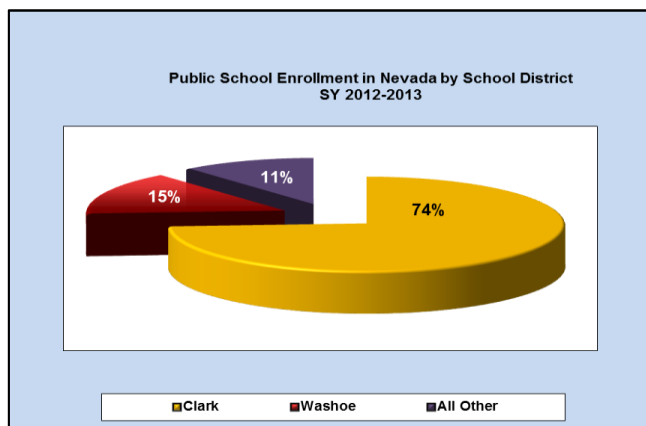
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The Legislature is responsible for establishing Nevada's public school system. The *Nevada Constitution* in Article 11, Section 2, requires the Nevada Legislature to provide for a uniform system of common schools. To this end, Title 34 ("Education") of the *Nevada Revised Statutes* (Chapters 385 through 395) deals with K–12 education.

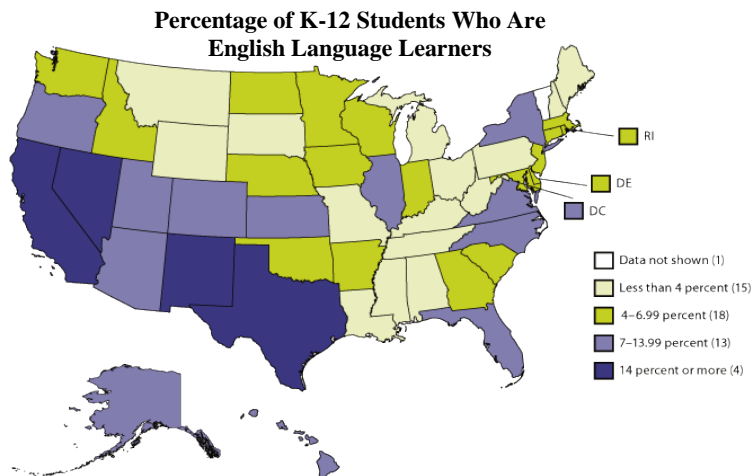
ENROLLMENT AND STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Nevada Public Schools—For School Year (SY) 2013–2014, Nevada had 673 public schools across 17 school districts, approximately 60 percent were elementary schools, 20 percent were middle schools, 15 percent were high schools, and 5 percent were special schools.

Current Enrollment—On "count day" at the beginning of SY 2012–2013, the full enrollment for Nevada public schools was 445,737 students. Approximately 74 percent of the student enrollment is in the Clark County School District, 15 percent is in the Washoe County School District, and 11 percent is in the remaining 15 school districts. For more information concerning the student count process, please see the Research Division's fact sheet "Counting Students for Purposes of K–12 Funding."



English Language Learners (ELL)—Nevada has seen a substantial increase in ethnic minority student populations, particularly those requiring special instruction to gain language proficiency. As of SY 2009–2010, Nevada led the nation with 19 percent of its students classified as ELL.

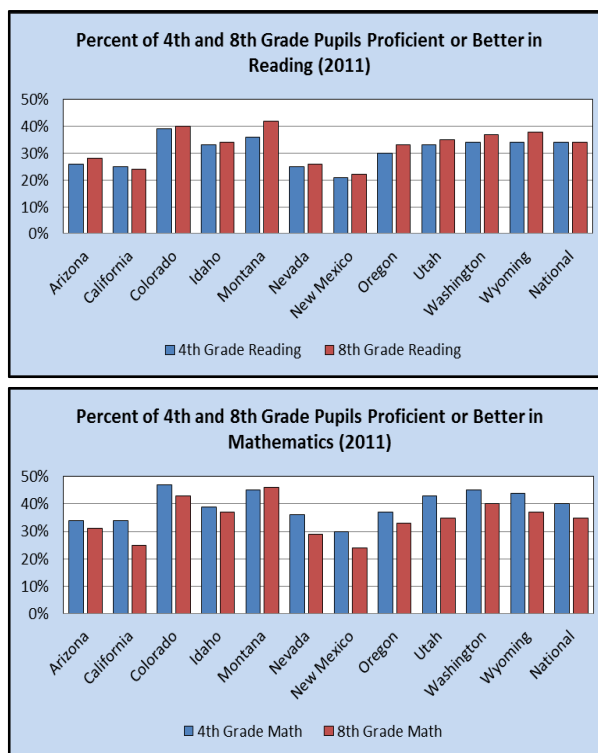


STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Dropout and Graduation Rates—The State’s annual dropout rate over the past ten years has averaged roughly 6 percent, one of the highest rates in the country. However, graduation rates are slowly improving. Nevada experienced a 7.4 percent increase in its graduation rate between 2000 and 2010, the 17th greatest increase in the nation. The graduation rate in SY 2011–2012 was 63 percent.

Reading—In 2011, Nevada ranked 46th in the nation for the percent of fourth graders scoring proficient or better in reading—the same as in 2009—and ranked 43rd for eighth graders, an improvement over 2009.

Mathematics—In 2011, Nevada ranked 38th in the nation for the percent of fourth graders scoring proficient or better in mathematics and ranked 39th for eighth graders. Both rankings are improvements over 2009.



SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY

In accordance with its waiver under the No Child Left Behind Act, Nevada’s Department of Education has implemented the Nevada School Performance Framework, which rates schools from one to five stars. Under the framework in SY 2012–2013 there were 19 one-star schools and 82 five-star schools in the State. For more information regarding the framework, please visit <http://nspf.doe.nv.gov/>.

EDUCATION PERSONNEL

During SY 2013–2014, Nevada’s school districts employed 25,895 licensed personnel; of these, 21,276 (82 percent) were classroom teachers.

The National Education Association’s (NEA) 2012 salary survey reported Nevada’s average teacher salary at \$53,736; the national average was \$57,282. (Note: The NEA estimates do not include the employee portion of the retirement contribution, which local school districts pay for employees.)

FINANCING

Legislatively approved appropriations for K–12 education are nearly 39 percent of State General Fund expenditures for the 2013–2015 Biennium, totaling \$2.5 billion.

The National Education Association’s *Rankings and Estimates* reported Nevada’s SY 2012–2013 per pupil K–12 spending at \$8,501, while the national average was \$11,068. Nevada ranked 46th among all states in per pupil K–12 spending.