

Nevada's Public Education System General Information

Nevada's system of public elementary and secondary education has its basis in the *Nevada Constitution*. At the State level, the system is governed through Nevada's Department of Education (NDE), headed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction with oversight provided by the State Board of Education. The Department is responsible for regulating and supporting the State's 17 school districts and 678 public schools. In Nevada, responsibility for the education of elementary and secondary students is divided or shared among the State, local school districts, and charter schools. The Legislature plays an important role in the establishment, structuring, and funding of Nevada's system of public elementary and secondary education.

CONSTITUTIONAL BASIS AND HISTORY

The *Nevada Constitution*, Article 11, Section 2, makes the State responsible for the establishment of the public school system. Specifically, the *Nevada Constitution* states, "The legislature shall provide for a uniform system of common schools"

In general, the Nevada Legislature has four primary responsibilities for public education: (1) providing for a uniform system of common schools; (2) prescribing the manner of appointment and duties of the Superintendent of Public Instruction; (3) indicating specific programs and courses of study; and (4) maintaining overall budget authority and establishing guaranteed per pupil funding.

Over the years, the Nevada Legislature has adopted a body of law within the *Nevada Revised Statutes* (Title 34, "Education") regarding the system of public schools. Sections of Title 34 address State and local administrative organization, financial support of the school system, the system of public instruction, academics and textbooks, personnel, pupils, school property, education of persons with disabilities, and other issues.

GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT

State Board of Education and the State Superintendent

Senate Bill 197 (Chapter 380, *Statutes of Nevada 2011*) made numerous changes affecting the structure and governance of Nevada's system of public elementary and secondary education. These changes include revising the selection process for members of the State Board of Education to consist of voting members elected by the voters in each of the State's four congressional districts and three members appointed by the Governor. In addition to the

Chapter 2

voting members, the Board includes four nonvoting members appointed by the Governor after being nominated by various entities specified in the bill. Prior to the approval of S.B. 197, the State Board of Education consisted of ten members chosen statewide in nonpartisan elections.

The measure also changed the selection process for the Superintendent of Public Instruction to require the Governor to appoint the State Superintendent from a list submitted by the State Board of Education. Prior to the passage of S.B. 197, the State Superintendent was appointed by the State Board of Education. The measure further revised the current vision and mission statements of the Board and provided the Superintendent with the authority to enforce the K through 12 education laws in Nevada and to ensure the duties and responsibilities of various councils and commissions are carried out.

School Districts and Charter Schools

Under the authority granted to it by the *Nevada Constitution*, the Legislature established a system of school districts to provide for a mechanism of local control. The Nevada Legislature, in a Special Session held in 1956, made extensive changes to the structure of Nevada's public school system. Among other changes, the Legislature eliminated the 208 legally active local school districts that had existed in Nevada and replaced them with just 17 districts, each of which is coterminous with county boundaries.

Under current law, district boards of trustees are composed of either five or seven members; districts with more than 1,000 pupils have seven-member boards. Nevada school district boards of trustees carry out a number of policy roles, which include: approving curriculum; enforcing courses of study prescribed by statute; administering the State system of public instruction; establishing district policies and procedures; and providing oversight of the district's budget.

Charter schools in Nevada operate under performance-based contracts and are authorized by school districts, universities, or the State Public Charter School Authority. Created in 2011, the Authority has Local Education Agency status so that it may function more like a school district, particularly with regard to the receipt of federal education funding.

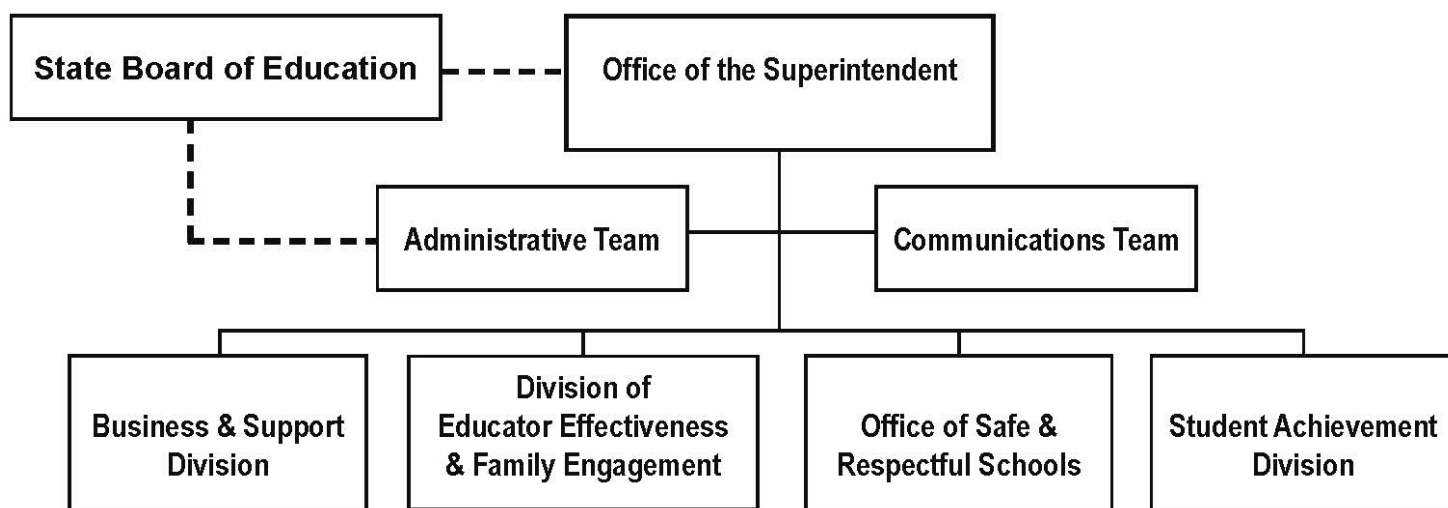
Legislature

During its biennial sessions, the Legislature acts upon numerous policy and fiscal measures dealing with public education. The two standing committees dealing with policy matters are the Senate Committee on Education and the Assembly Committee on Education. Bills requiring substantive funding are processed by the two appropriations committees—the Senate Committee on Finance and the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means. During the interim period between legislative sessions, fiscal matters related to education are considered by the Interim Finance Committee; education policy issues are discussed by the Legislative Committee on Education.

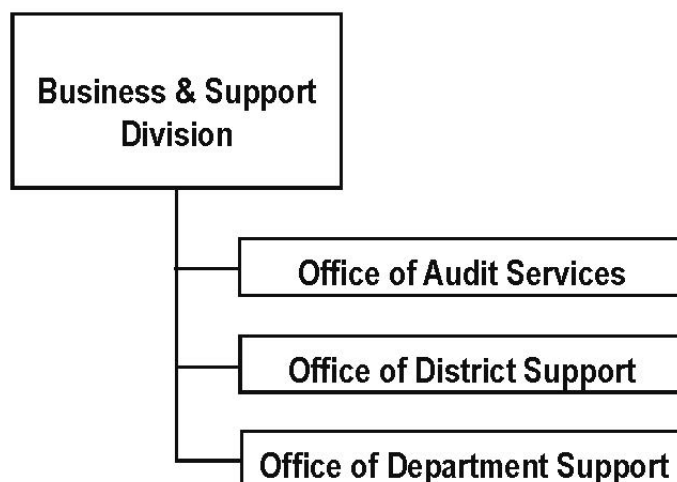
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION—ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

In 2014, the Superintendent of Public Instruction implemented a substantial reorganization of NDE, aligning leadership and organizational units around three major functions: (1) Student Achievement; (2) Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement; and (3) Business and Support Services. The following charts reflect these changes, as well as the current governance arrangement among the State Board of Education, various advisory bodies, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

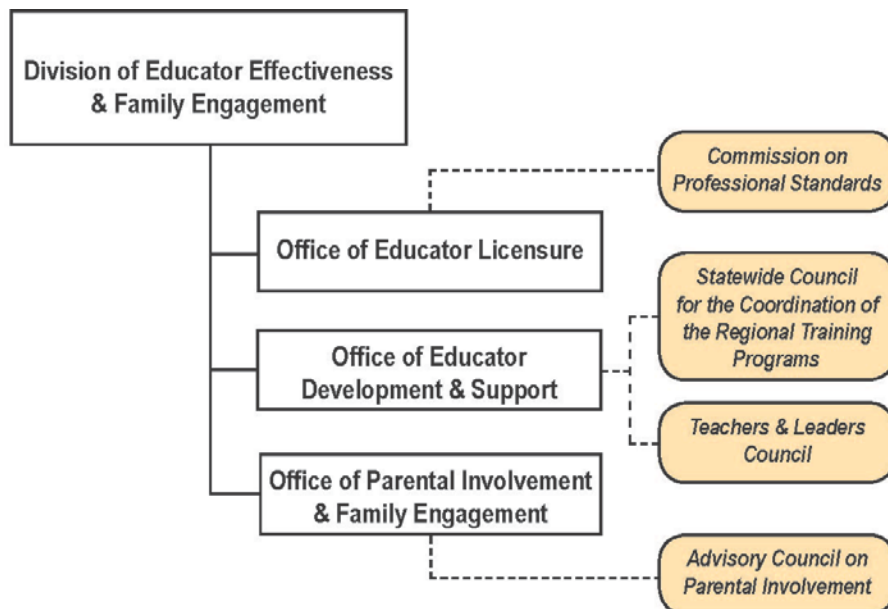
Nevada's Department of Education



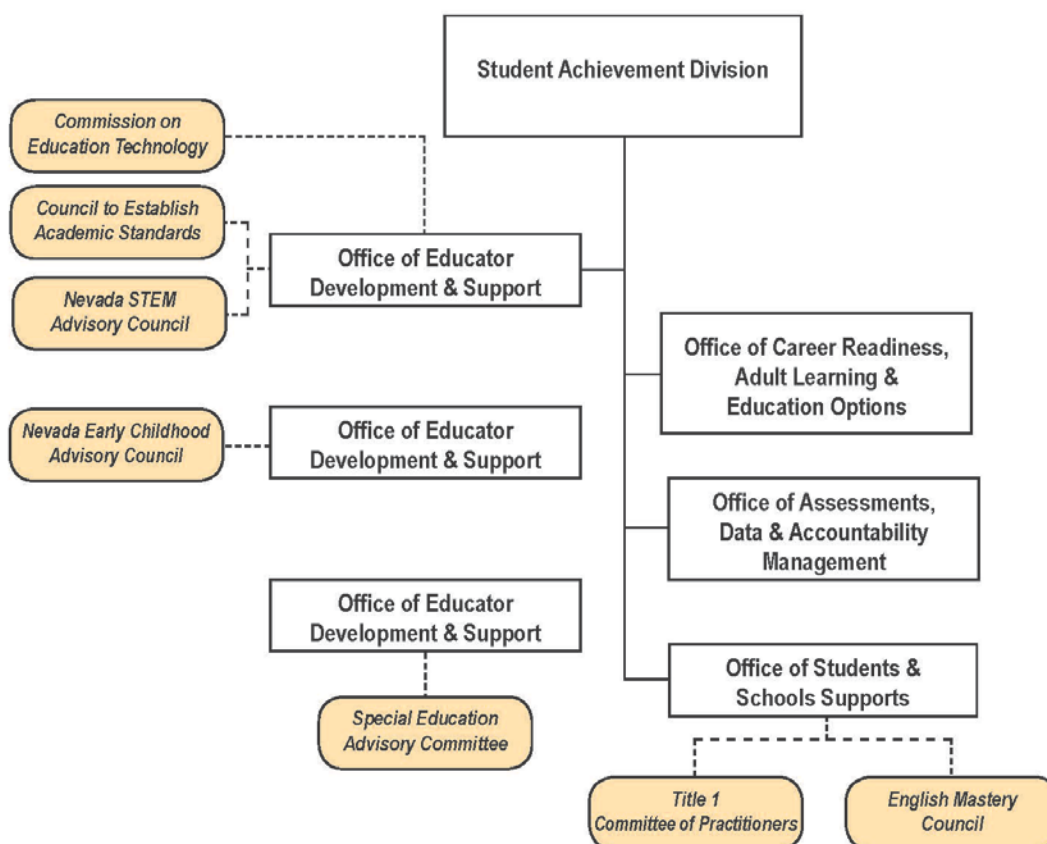
Business and Support Services Division



Division of Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement



Student Achievement Division



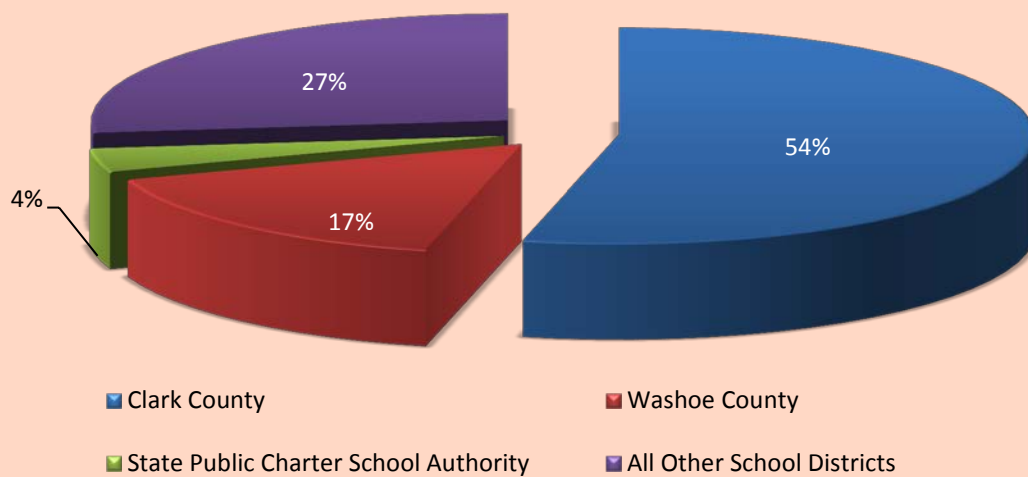
NEVADA'S SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND SUPERINTENDENTS
SCHOOL YEAR (SY) 2016–2017

Carson City School District Richard Stokes, Superintendent Telephone: (775) 283-2100 E-mail: rstokes@carson.k12.nv.us	Lincoln County School District Pamela Teel, Superintendent Telephone: (775) 728-8000, Ext. 2 E-mail: pteel@lcsdnv.com
Churchill County School District Dr. Sandra Sheldon, Superintendent Telephone: (775) 423-5184 E-mail: sheldons@churchillcsd.com	Lyon County School District Wayne Workman, Superintendent Telephone: (775) 463-6800, Ext. 134 E-mail: wworkman@lyoncsd.org
Clark County School District Pat Skorkowsky, Superintendent Telephone: (702) 799-5310 E-mail: pskorkowsky@interact.ccsd.net	Mineral County School District Walt Hackford, Superintendent Telephone: (775) 945-2403, Ext. 10 E-mail: hackfordw@mineral.k12.nv.us
Douglas County School District Teri White, Superintendent Telephone: (775) 782-5134 E-mail: twhite@dcsd.k12.nv.us	Nye County School District Dale A. Norton, Superintendent Telephone: (775) 727-7743, Ext. 239 E-mail: dnorton@nye.k12.nv.us
Elko County School District Jeff Zander, Superintendent Telephone: (775) 738-5196 E-mail: jzander@ecsdnv.net	Pershing County School District Russell Fecht, Superintendent Telephone: (775) 273-7819 E-mail: rfecht@pershing.k12.nv.us
Esmeralda County School District Rodriguez Broadnax, Superintendent Telephone: (775) 485-6382 E-mail: rbroadnax@esmeralda.k12.nv.us	Storey County School District Todd Hess, Superintendent Telephone: (775) 847-0983 E-mail: thess@storey.k12.nv.us
Eureka County School District Dan Wold, Superintendent Telephone: (775) 237-5373 E-mail: dwold@eureka.k12.nv.us	Washoe County School District Traci Davis, Superintendent Telephone: (775) 789-4645 E-mail: tdavis@washoeschools.net
Humboldt County School District Dr. Dave Jensen, Superintendent Telephone: (775) 623-8100 E-mail: djensen@hcsdnv.com	White Pine County School District Adam Young, Superintendent Telephone: (775) 289-4851, Ext. 7108 E-mail: adayoung@whitepine.k12.nv.us
Lander County School District Jim Squibb, Superintendent Telephone: (775) 635-2886 E-mail: jsquibb@lander.k12.nv.us	

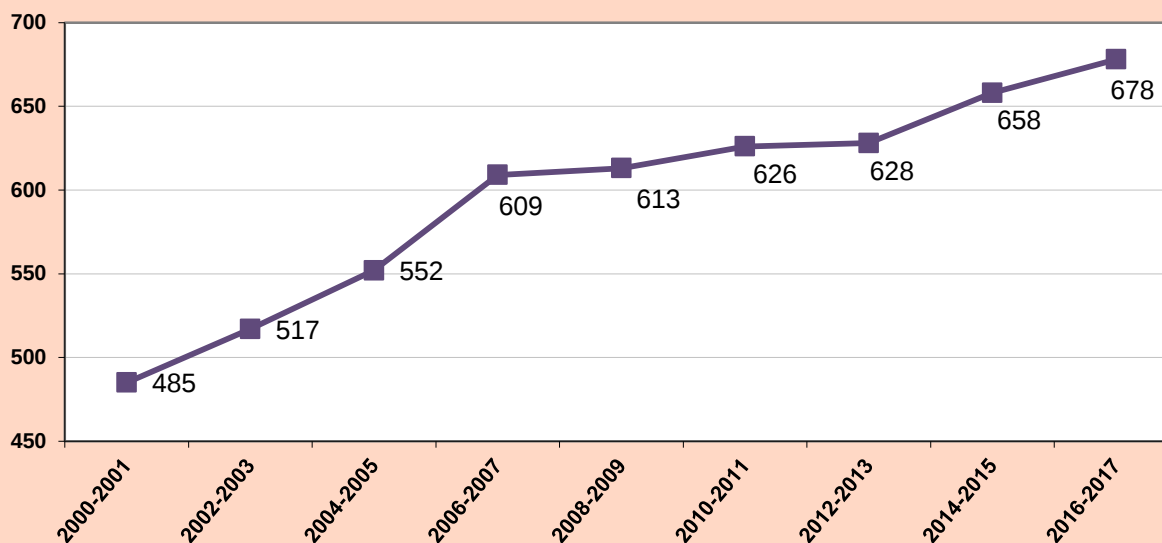
Source: NDE, 2017.

NEVADA SCHOOLS

**Percentage of Nevada Public Schools by School District
SY 2015–2016**



**Total Public Schools in Nevada
SY 2001 to 2017**



Source: NDE, 2016.

COMMON ACRONYMS AND SELECTED TERMS

ACT	ACT® Exam (American College Test)
AFT	American Federation of Teachers
AP	Advanced Placement (Courses)
ASD	Achievement School District
CAEP	Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation
CBE	Council for Basic Education
CCSS	Common Core State Standards
CCSSO	Council of Chief State School Officers
CRT	Criterion-Referenced Test
CSN	College of Southern Nevada, Las Vegas
CSR	Class-Size Reduction
CTE	Career and Technical Education
DRI	Desert Research Institute
DSA	Distributive School Account
ECE	Early Childhood Education
ECS	Education Commission of the States
ED	United States Department of Education (also see USDoE)
EL	English Learner (latest vernacular, used with ELL, ESL, and LEP)
ELL	English Language Learner
ESA	Education Savings Account
ESEA	Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
ESL	English as a Second Language (see EL and LEP)
ESSA	Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015
ETS	Educational Testing Service
FERPA	Family Education Rights and Privacy Act
FRL	Free and Reduced-Price Lunch
GATE	Gifted and Talented Education
GBC	Great Basin College, Elko
GED	General Education Diploma
GPA	Grade Point Average
HSPE	High School Proficiency Examination
IDEA	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (Federal Special Education Law)
IEP	Individualized Education Program
iNVest	Investing in Nevada's Education, Students, and Teachers
IPEDS	Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Systems
LAS	Language Assessment Scales
LBEAPE	Legislative Bureau of Educational Accountability and Program Evaluation
LCE	Legislative Committee on Education
LEA	Local Education Agency (i.e., School District)
LEP	Limited English Proficient (see EL and ESL)
LSST	Local School Support Tax

COMMON ACRONYMS AND SELECTED TERMS *(continued)*

NAEP	National Assessment of Educational Progress
NASA	Nevada Association of School Administrators
NASB	Nevada Association of School Boards
NASS	Nevada Association of School Superintendents
NBPTS	National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
NCES	National Center for Education Statistics
NCHEMS	National Center for Higher Education Management Systems
NCLB	No Child Left Behind Act of 2001
NDE	Nevada's Department of Education
NEA	National Education Association
NELIP	Nevada Early Literacy Intervention Program
NEPF	Nevada Educator Performance Framework
NERA	Nevada Education Reform Act of 1997
NIAA	Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association
NPWR	Nevada P-20 to Workforce Research data system
NRT	Norm Referenced Test
NSC	Nevada State College, Henderson
NSEA	Nevada State Education Association
NSHE	Nevada System of Higher Education
NSPF	Nevada School Performance Framework
NVACS	Nevada Academic Content Standards
NWEA	Northwest Evaluation Association
PISA	Programme for International Student Assessment
PSAT	PSAT® Exam
PTA	Parent Teacher Association
PTO	Parent Teacher Organization
RPDP	Regional Professional Development Program
SAT	SAT® Exam
SBAC	Smarter-Balanced Assessment Consortium
SBE	State Board of Education
SEA	State Education Agency (i.e., State Department of Education)
SHEEO	State Higher Education Executive Officers
SIOP	Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol
SIP	School or State Improvement Plan
SLDS	Statewide Longitudinal Data System
SPCSA	State Public Charter School Authority
SSOG	Silver State Opportunity Grant
STEAM	Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
TESL	Teaching English as a Second Language
TMCC	Truckee Meadows Community College, Reno

COMMON ACRONYMS AND SELECTED TERMS *(continued)*

UNLV	University of Nevada, Las Vegas
UNR	University of Nevada, Reno
USDoE	United States Department of Education (also see ED)
WICHE	Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
WNC	Western Nevada College, Carson City

A recent study found, from 2003 to 2013, Nevada demonstrated the most growth among all states on the National Assessment of Educational Progress, commonly referred to as “The Nation’s Report Card.”

