

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Seventy-Sixth Session
March 9, 2011**

The Committee on Health and Human Services was called to order by Chair April Mastroluca at 1:33 p.m. on Wednesday, March 9, 2011, in Room 3138 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4401 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. Copies of the minutes, including the Agenda ([Exhibit A](#)), the Attendance Roster ([Exhibit B](#)), and other substantive exhibits, are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and on the Nevada Legislature's website at www.leg.state.nv.us/76th2011/committees/. In addition, copies of the audio record may be purchased through the Legislative Counsel Bureau's Publications Office (email: publications@lcb.state.nv.us; telephone: 775-684-6835).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblywoman April Mastroluca, Chair
Assemblywoman Peggy Pierce, Vice Chair
Assemblyman Elliot T. Anderson
Assemblywoman Teresa Benitez-Thompson
Assemblyman Steven Brooks
Assemblyman Richard Carrillo
Assemblywoman Lucy Flores
Assemblyman Jason Frierson
Assemblyman Pete Goicoechea
Assemblyman Scott Hammond
Assemblyman Pete Livermore
Assemblyman Mark Sherwood
Assemblywoman Debbie Smith

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Assemblyman John Hambrick (excused)

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mindy Martini, Senior Research Analyst
Allison Combs, Committee Policy Analyst
Kirsten Coulombe, Committee Policy Analyst
Risa Lang, Committee Counsel
Linda Whimple, Committee Secretary
Olivia Lloyd, Committee Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT:

Donnell Barton, CFCS, Director, Office of Child Nutrition and School Health, Department of Education
Nicole Rourke, Executive Director, Government Affairs, Clark County School District
Charles E. Anderson, Director, Food Service Department, Clark County School District
Virginia Beck, Dietician, Food Service Department, Clark County School District
Rick Harris, Senior Administrator, Washoe County School District
Tony Cook, Director, Nutrition Services Center, Washoe County School District
Paula Berkley, representing Food Bank of Northern Nevada
Karen Spears, Ph.D., R.D., Assistant Professor, Nutrition State Specialist, Department of Nutrition, University of Nevada, Reno
Craig M. Stevens, Director of Government Relations, Nevada State Education Association

Chair Mastroluca:

[Roll was called.] Today we are going to hear a presentation on Nevada's Child Nutrition Program, and I will tell you there are quite a few documents on Nevada Electronic Legislative Information System (NELIS). Some of them are rather large, so I would encourage you to use the Firefox program on your computers to bring them up. It will move a little more smoothly. For those listening or in the audience, all of the documents are available on the NELIS computer system, and you will be able to see all of the exhibits as the Committee views them.

Donnell Barton, CFCS, Director, Office of Child Nutrition and School Health, Department of Education:

Before I get started, I want to let you know that Governor Sandoval has signed a proclamation declaring March 7 through 11 as School Breakfast Week in

Nevada, so it is great that we are able to be here today to discuss school breakfast with you.

I was asked to respond to the May 28, 2009, Letter of Intent regarding increasing breakfast participation ([Exhibit C](#)) that was sent to school district superintendents and Dr. Keith Rheault, Superintendent of Public Instruction, by Assemblywoman Debbie Smith, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services, and Senator Valerie Wiener, Chair of the Senate Committee on Health and Education. On page 2 of the letter, it requested that the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) develop a formula to evaluate options regarding the elimination of the reduced-price meal category and the utilization of Provision 2, as noted in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the letter. In October 2009, the Office of Child Nutrition and School Health provided spreadsheets to food service directors to help them determine the feasibility of eliminating reduced-price meals and using Provision 2, which allows all students to eat free. The spreadsheets are located on our Nevada Department of Education website under the National School Lunch Program Resources. Several districts utilized the spreadsheets and determined that neither option was viable for their districts.

Chair Mastroluca:

I am going to interrupt you for one second. The letter that Ms. Barton is referring to in the NELIS system is labeled "Letter to Dr. Rheault." This letter was sent by the Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee at the end of the last session on our behalf.

Donnell Barton:

The letter went to all of the school district superintendents as well as Dr. Rheault. It was to give:

- The number of free and reduced children qualified to access meals compared to the total student enrollment, by school;
- The number of dollars left in Washington, D.C., because all qualified students were not participating, by school;
- The actual dollars sent to Nevada to provide school meals compared to the dollars left in Washington, D.C.;
- A list of the schools in which after-the-bell breakfast programs had been implemented compared to the previous year;

- A brief description of the school district's activities in previous years leading to an increase (or decrease) in school breakfast participation and a brief explanation of what the district feels may be preventing it from achieving a participation rate in the top 50 percent of the nation; and
- A report on the Summer Food Program, which illustrates that districts have proactively sought out and implemented a partnership solution that will welcome all eligible neighborhood children and will be effective to nourish free and reduced children in the summer and during off-track breaks.

The Office of Child Nutrition and School Health staff met with Legislative Counsel Bureau staff to talk about how to do this. Because of the current economic condition and some budgets being cut with the districts, we developed a new child nutrition web-based application and claiming system that allowed us to collect this information by the sites for the district. We have that information within the system, but the system did not become active for the 2008-2009 school year (SY). We offered to be able to provide that data for the 2008-2009 SY and 2009-2010 SY instead of the previous five years. So what you have on the NELIS system is the *School Meals Fiscal Impact Report* for those two school years ([Exhibit D](#)).

In that report, we provided breakfast data on all Nevada schools participating in the school breakfast program by district. We also included in the report, on a district basis, the potential number of breakfasts served based on the number of eligible students times the number of school days. If you will turn to page 4 . . .

Chair Mastroluca:

Can you show us the book, because we do not have an exhibit by that name.

Donnell Barton:

The book lists every school that participates in the national School Breakfast Program and the National School Lunch Program and provides individual school data. The first data chart appears on the fourth page of the book. This details the Carson City School District information on the School Breakfast Program.

You will see that in SY 2008-2009, under the number of free- and reduced-eligible students (severe/regular), there were 2,358 students that were severe need students and none that were regular. I will explain the difference between severe need and regular.

If a school has 40 percent of its kids receiving lunch for the previous two years as free and reduced, then they are eligible for an additional 28 cents for breakfast. We divided it between severe need and regular so you can see the amount of funding that could be received when we get to the end. It would make a difference, because there are a significant number of schools in Nevada that are severe need. So we would multiply that number by 180 days. Some districts are on the four-day school week, so for those districts we used 144 days. Then we multiply that to come up with Column D, which is the potential number of free and reduced breakfasts.

The next column is the actual number of breakfasts served. As an example, in SY 2008-2009 for Carson City, for just free kids, there were 424,440 possible breakfasts and there were actually 101,153 served, which was approximately 24 percent of the potential meals that could have been served. The potential funding for the Carson City School District was \$713,059.20. What they actually received was \$169,937.04, so the reimbursement funding that was left in Washington, D.C. for this one category would have been \$543,122.16. We also made that calculation for the reduced kids in that year and then for the free and reduced kids for the 2009-2010 SY.

If you flip over to the next page—even though we were not asked, we thought folks might like to know this—we did the exact same thing for lunch.

On page 5, you will see the exact same formula but done for lunch. If you go to page 6—I am going to use Bordewich Bray Elementary School in Carson City as an example. For Bordewich Bray in SY 2009-2010, the official school enrollment was 589. Of those students receiving breakfast, 274 were free-eligible, 48 were reduced-eligible, and the actual number of free and reduced breakfasts served was 14,841 for free, 2,390 for reduced. The average daily lunch participation was 224 for free and 35 for reduced. The average daily breakfast participation was 83 for free and 13 for reduced.

Chair Mastroluca:

Is there any difference between the children who are eligible for free and reduced lunch versus the children who are eligible for free and reduced breakfast?

Donnell Barton:

There is no difference. It is the same child. So at Bordewich Bray the percentage of free and eligible students eating school lunch for free was 75.6 and for reduced was 73.9. However, for breakfast, the percentage was 27.8 for free and 28.2 for reduced. As the chart shows, we asked additional questions. We looked at the school's average yearly progress;

this is a high-achieving school. It offers school breakfast in the classroom and Grab-n-Go. It is a Provision 2 school, meaning the school can serve a meal at no charge to any student who wants it that day. That gives you an overview of the information we gathered for each one of the schools.

If you go to the “Nevada State Summary” in the very back of the book, you will see statewide data for school lunch by district. For the 2008-2009 SY, Carson City’s potential reimbursement for school lunch was \$1,365,384.60. Carson City actually received \$893,957.22, which left \$471,427.38 behind in Washington, D.C., which was 34.53 percent of funding loss. The total fiscal impact for the state for the 2008-2009 SY—if all of the kids who were qualified had eaten lunch—would have been \$17,774,384. For the 2009-2010 SY, the total fiscal impact was \$22,580,113.

On the next page, for school breakfast for the 2008-2009 SY, the impact was \$38,623,162, and for the 2009-2010 SY it would have been \$40,592,290. That is the money we left behind because all of the kids were not participating in school breakfast.

We probably would never get to 100 percent. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) sets a participation rate, and for this particular school year it was 93.3 percent. So you could look at 93.3 percent of the funds as probably the true number, but—I know we are talking millions—it still is not a significant difference. So I did not go down and take it to the 93.3 percent participation rate. I just left it at the 100 percent rate.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson:

On page 6 there are two breakfast categories, in the classroom versus Grab-n-Go. Could you explain what the difference is?

Donnell Barton:

“In the classroom” means that students receive their meals in the classroom and eat before the beginning of the school day. Oftentimes the teacher has them do some reading while she checks the homework. It is at the very beginning of the very first period of the day. Grab-n-Go is like a sack breakfast that they can pick up and eat somewhere else on campus, so they just grab it and go. Sometimes there is a stigma placed on kids who are going into the cafeteria because the other kids know that if students are going into the cafeteria for breakfast, they are probably the free- and reduced-eligible kids.

The Provision 2 schools do not have to certify eligible students each year. During what we call a base year, the school collects and turns in applications to determine how many students are eligible, and they set the free and reduced

rate for that school for that year. For the next three years they do not have to do applications. It also sets the claiming rate for that school, so it is less of an administrative burden, and the district is better able to figure out the cost of meals and what foods will be served. So there can be a savings by doing Provision 2. But USDA recommends that you have to have at least between 80 to 85 percent free- and reduced-eligible students at a school to break even. The Department of Education provided a spreadsheet for districts to utilize to determine if Provision 2 would be worthwhile for them.

Assemblyman Brooks:

Thank you for this report. On the last two pages, where you discussed the *School Lunch Fiscal Impact Report*, you discussed the percentage of funding loss for the school lunch program. I realize that Esmeralda County has 100 percent funding loss for 2008-2009 and 2009-2010, and I want to know if that means that they do not serve lunch, or if no one needs it. When I turn the page I see that they are getting breakfast.

Donnell Barton:

Esmeralda County participates only in the school breakfast program, not in the lunch program, so that is why the school lunch is showing 100 percent loss. None of the children participated in lunch because it is not offered in Esmeralda County. The reverse is true for Lander County. They do not offer breakfast in Lander County, so they offer only lunch. That is why you are seeing 100 percent loss for those two.

Assemblyman Brooks:

Why would they not serve both?

Donnell Barton:

I would really like the districts to speak to that. I can tell you that in Esmeralda County they have less than 70 children enrolled. The federal reimbursement will not cover the cost of providing lunch, so it would be a burden to the district. About five or six years ago they chose not to offer lunch at Esmeralda County. I have been in this position for seven and a half years, and Lander County has never offered breakfast. I know community members have tried to get breakfast going in that district, and administration has not looked favorably towards it. Past that point, we would need to ask them for the specifics.

Assemblyman Sherwood:

Thank you for a very comprehensive report. So the state total fiscal impact— whichever number we are looking at—is the difference between the potential reimbursement and the actual reimbursement. But obviously it is not free cash.

There is an expense. Let us say we had a 100 percent take rate. There is a cost involved with that. The state would never actually "make money on this" unless we had more than 85 percent, correct?

Donnell Barton:

The state would never make money. We are flow-through. We provide that reimbursement back to the districts. Normally the reimbursement rate does not cover the full cost of preparing the meal, but if you had this much funding and you had higher participation, you would have a better control cost of the product that you were purchasing as well as your labor.

Assemblyman Sherwood:

So you would not lose quite as much. The way it looks here, if I did not think through this, I would think, "There is \$38 million we are not getting," and that is not the case.

Donnell Barton:

Correct.

Assemblyman Livermore:

I had a tour of Empire Elementary School in Carson City in early January, and if you look at the percent of students eligible for breakfast and lunch, it is close to 90 percent. Does the school have the authority to make the change because it is so high we no longer collect from anyone? We just give meals to everyone for free?

Donnell Barton:

The district could make that decision. As an example, in Washoe County they provide meals to all of their reduced-price children without charging them. It is 30 cents difference between the reduced price and the free breakfast, so normally districts would charge the 30 cents for breakfast and 40 cents for lunch, but Washoe County allows all of the reduced kids to eat for free and does not charge them. So they could choose to do that.

Assemblyman Livermore:

That is what Empire Elementary School did. If you look at the numbers, in 2009-2010 enrollment is 551 students, and 461 are enrolled free or reduced. So at that point they decided it was not right singling out the other people.

Donnell Barton:

You are correct. That was one of the spreadsheets that we designed for the districts to see if it was feasible for them to eliminate the reduced price. Later on I will tell you which districts are eliminating the reduced price.

Assemblyman Livermore:

I am not sure it is districtwide. I visited only Empire Elementary School, so I am not saying that the rest of the schools are going that way.

Chair Mastroluca:

Where does Nevada rank in comparison with the rest of the country as far as the amount of participation in breakfast and lunch programs?

Donnell Barton:

I can tell you, for USDA we are dead last. Even Guam and Puerto Rico beat us. We are 53 out of 53. The Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) did a report, "School Breakfast Scorecard: School Year 2009-2010" ([Exhibit E](#)), and ranked Nevada as one of the 10 bottom states. Nevada was ranked 50th for the low-income student participation in the school breakfast program for 2009-2010. Those statistics in the FRAC report can be found on page 4 and page 18.

In January, FRAC also released the report "School Breakfast in America's Big Cities" ([Exhibit F](#)), which examines the performance of school breakfast in 29 large urban school districts during the 2009-2010 school year. Data was not collected for the Clark County School District for 2008-2009, but for 2009-2010, and they were ranked 29th for the effectiveness in reaching low-income students. That can be found on page 7 of the report.

Chair Mastroluca:

Are there any more questions for Ms. Barton? [There was no response.]

Donnell Barton:

I have a few more items to discuss. We talked about Provision 2. During the 2008-2009 SY, Clark County had 11 Provision 2 schools and 9 for the 2009-2010 SY. Humboldt County had 4 Provision 2 schools for the 2008-2009 SY, and 3 for the 2009-2010 SY. Washoe County had 8 Provision 2 schools for the 2008-2009 SY, and 9 schools for the 2009-2010 SY. Clark County had no change for this SY. For this school year Washoe County has 15 Provision 2s, and Humboldt County has dropped down to 1. Fay Herron Elementary School in North Las Vegas has the only breakfast in the classroom program in Clark County. In Washoe County, Lincoln Park, Maxwell, and Mitchell have breakfast in the classroom for the 2009-2010 SY, and this year it is Maxwell and Mitchell for breakfast in the classroom.

I would like to switch books on you, going to the one titled *Running with a Spork* ([Exhibit G](#)), produced by the Office of Child Nutrition and School Health, Nevada Department of Education. In the "Trends" section, we have shown the

number of meals served for the federal fiscal years 2008, 2009, and 2010. You will notice a difference in those numbers versus the numbers in the *School Meals Fiscal Impact Report*. That is because, in the *School Meals Fiscal Impact Report*, we were looking only at free- and reduced-eligible students, and at school year. In "Trends," we are looking at the federal fiscal year, which is from October 1 through September 30, and at all students. If you are trying to compare the two books, they are not going to compare. Some of it is the same data, but some of it is not because of the school year versus fiscal year.

In the "State Overview" we have the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program side by side. You can see the lunch participation rate and the breakfast participation rate by county as well as the number of meals served and the amount of funding that went to each county for the 2009-2010 SY.

We were requested to provide you information about the Summer Food Service Program. Some of the information requested is not easily attained, either by the Department of Education or by the school districts. The school districts offer what we call the "Seamless Summer" option, but when they report those meals, they report them under the National School Lunch Program, so there is not a way to calculate how many of the meals are served during the summer months compared to the number of kids who are qualified. The other thing about Seamless Summer is anyone who is 18 years of age or less and shows up at the site and wants to eat, he can eat. If the site was an elementary school and I wanted to bring my three- and five-year-old brother and sister with me, I could do that. There would be no record that they were eligible, but they are eligible to eat because it is available to anyone under 18 years of age. The same thing happens with our community sponsors. They do not take applications, so whoever shows up is able to receive a free lunch, breakfast, or snack for that day. It is hard for us to provide you actual eligible versus participation figures in that program, so the best that I could do for you was to provide the number of sponsors and sites by county, the number of meals, and funding by county.

My staff in Las Vegas, Three Square Food Bank, and Culinary Training worked very hard last year to get more sponsors to participate, but we actually saw a 9 percent decrease in the Summer Food Service Program. We had about the same number of sponsors on site, and I am not quite sure why it did not work, but we will keep trying. The new Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act is going to require districts to work with the community sponsors and promote the Summer Food Program as well as the breakfast program. So we will be working with the districts on how they can continually promote those two programs.

Finally, I would like to thank the Office of Child Nutrition and School Health staff for all the efforts they put into the book. Tina Kramer supplied the meal counts and funding, and Lynda Martina was responsible for the layout for the report. Thank you.

Chair Mastroluca:

I recognize the amount of work that it has taken to do this. Ms. Martini and I have been working on this project for a couple of years, and I know how much work this entailed. The book that you put together is a huge step forward in keeping track of this information in Nevada. Thank you for your work because I think it will make a difference.

Are there any questions for Ms. Barton? [There was no response.]

Mindy Martini, Senior Research Analyst:

As always, as legislative staff I cannot advocate or oppose any proposals before you. I am here at the request of Chair Mastroluca to present some findings from a quick poll survey that we did about the school districts. Ms. Barton mentioned the May 2009 letter of intent, which you have a copy of. The letter was distributed to all Nevada school districts requesting implementation of certain policies and certain performance measures. Ms. Barton just talked to you about the performance measures and the collection of data. Certain policies were also requested to hopefully increase participation in some of the breakfast and lunch programs. This letter of intent was signed by Assemblywoman Smith and Senator Wiener during the 2009 Legislative Session. We decided to help the school districts gather the information requested in the letter of intent. The Department of Education collected the information and then the staff at the Legislative Counsel Bureau made a quick poll survey to ask the school districts the status of all the things included in the letter of intent. The survey that was distributed to all the school districts is provided ([Exhibit H](#)).

The districts' responses are outlined in "School Nutrition Programs in the State of Nevada: Quick Poll Survey Results ([Exhibit I](#))". First, who responded to the survey? Fifteen of the seventeen school districts responded. The two that did not respond to the survey were the Humboldt and Mineral County School Districts. Second, what is the participation in after-the-bell school breakfast programs? We asked, "Has your school district implemented a policy concerning school breakfast after-the-bell?" None of the school districts in the state have implemented a formal policy concerning breakfast.

However, a lot of progress has been made. I have highlighted Clark and Washoe Counties and then compiled all of the rural school districts together. In Clark County School District, an expanded Grab-n-Go breakfast program will be implemented beginning next school year. I actually tried out the Grab-n-Go for lunch and it is very nice. In Washoe County School District, they have implemented breakfast in 63 percent of its schools. The school district has also increased the number of breakfast in the classroom programs from 10 to 16 in just the last year.

All of the rural school districts are smaller school districts. All but four of them said, "No progress." Four had it in all of their schools. They offered breakfast in a classroom but had no formal policy. Two districts reported the staff was opposed and felt that the program would not help with student achievement and would take time away from the classroom.

Finally, you will see that one of the rural school districts was able to implement breakfast after-the-bell fully for the high school. They thought that it was great for high school but that it would not work in the elementary and middle school, at least for them.

We asked if they had made any progress from one year to the next. That is, how many breakfast after-the-bell programs did you have in 2009-2010 and 2010-2011? Clark County School District said, "One in each year. No expansion of the program." Washoe County School District is up 16 schools. You will see that with the other smaller school districts, two have done quite well with breakfast in the classroom and find it very beneficial.

Based upon testimony from the last session, there was one question in the letter of intent that looked only at Clark County School District and Carson City School District. The question was if the reduced-price meal category was eliminated. You will see that Clark County eliminated the category. They offer it free to all of those students. If you are reduced or free, you get your meal for free. Carson City School District is still looking at it. They have hired Aramark Education, a food management corporation, to help them increase participation in both breakfast and lunch. They are doing that this school year and will have the results at the end of the year.

Provision 2 is when the school provides free breakfast and lunch for every student regardless of family income. We first wanted to look at the formula that the Department was requested to develop. Is anyone using this formula? If you look on the next page, you will see that about seven of the school districts that responded, or 46 percent, actually used the formula that the Department drafted. You have four, which includes

Clark County School District, that said, No, we do not need the formula and we are not using the formula. Four were N/A because they indicated they do not need the formula, and they either do not have schools that would qualify, or too few.

We also wanted to look at Provision 2 schools offering free breakfast and lunch for everyone. "Does your school district utilize "Provision 2" of the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs for all eligible schools?" One indicated "Yes," and that was Clark County School District. Five were "No," including Washoe County School District. They do not provide it. Some schools are not provided Provision 2 status. Several were "N/A."

Clark County School District said its administrative savings through its Provision 2 application have been diminishing over the years. You are not getting a big bang for your buck by allowing everyone to have this free breakfast and lunch. The paperwork is so easy to do now because it is all online and you are saving a lot from administrative costs. But they still see a benefit in Provision 2, so they are providing it to all eligible schools.

Washoe County School District has 14 Provision 2 schools. During the current school year six more were added, as we discussed earlier. All of the other responding school districts—nine—said that no schools qualified because they were just too small.

We also looked at Summer Food and Off Track Food Programs, which is the last piece that Ms. Barton brought up. We asked, "Is there a Summer/Off Track Food Program available for all high poverty neighborhoods in your school district?" Both Clark and Washoe Counties said, "Yes," that all their high poverty neighborhoods are covered. Eight districts, or 53 percent, said "No." We wanted to find out a bit more. If you look on page 5 of the results, you will see that Clark County School District no longer has year-round schools, so that has made a difference. They indicate that they will have 125 sites open during the summer to feed all the Title I sites, all the special needs sites, and all the extended school year sites. In August there will be no school open at all in Clark County School District, and the Three Square Food Bank has made a pledge that it will work to keep Summer Food going.

In Washoe County, the Food Bank of Northern Nevada supports 30 programs throughout the school district. Of the other responding school districts, three said that Summer Food is provided by an external not-for-profit entity. Elko provides summer meals at schools in several communities. Eight said funding was an issue in providing summer school, as it would be in the smaller school districts. Four said it was absolutely not feasible because

of transportation, and the cost for the parents to get the student there to have the breakfast or lunch would just be too high. Also, there are no funds for them to operate a Summer Food program.

The last question that we asked, and this was one that we wanted to start generating ideas, was, "What are the strategies that school districts are using to increase school breakfast and school lunch"? I want to point out a few of the ideas that are more innovative. In Clark County School District, they are testing every meal option with the kids before adding it to the menu. They also piloted a remodel of several of their cafeterias so they look very inviting and more like a food court at the mall. They said the remodeling has increased participation by 74 percent. They have roving salad bars at many of the elementary and middle schools, and they are training their staffs to be courteous and give customer service, just like any other food establishment.

Washoe County School District talked about how it is increasing breakfast offerings. In the other smaller school districts—I thought some of these ideas were very innovative—they are having a menu contest for kids to have them develop their own menu. They are using their student councils in many of the middle and high schools and asking them what their favorite items are. They are also trying to come up with recipes that make the food appear more like home-cooked meals. They are changing their hours, so they can capture more of the kids. That concludes my comments. If you have any questions, I would be happy to answer them.

Chair Mastroluca:

I want to go back to the overview. Based on the research you have done—and I am sure Ms. Barton can also share her thoughts—could you tell us why it is important to encourage school breakfasts and participation in school lunch.

Mindy Martini:

If you are thinking about how hungry you are, it is hard for you to concentrate and learn in the classroom. That has been the primary reason, from my research, that nutrition is linked to student academic achievement.

Donnell Barton:

In the NELIS system, we have a document that is called "Breakfast Comparison: Adequate Yearly Progress" ([Exhibit J](#)). We looked at the schools that were in need of improvement for more than three years and which had 50 percent or greater free- and reduced-eligible students, and then we compared their participation in the breakfast program. I believe 150 schools met that criteria. Out of those, 49 had very low participation, although they had a very high free and reduced eligibility. That might suggest that kids who are not healthy and

do not have good nutrition are not as successful in the classroom as those that are. But there were some anomalies, and they happen to occur in about six schools in Washoe County. Most of them were Provision 2 schools. They were more than three years in need of improvement, had an 80 percent or greater free and reduced, and had a 90 percent participation rate. I talked with our Assessments Program Accountability and Curriculum group this morning, and they said that it was probably a co-relational poverty relationship as to why those kids are not successful, even though they are receiving good nutrition. There are other factors of poverty that are probably influencing why they are not doing as well in school. I will have to go back and get additional information from them, but it is a very quick response for you. When I saw that anomaly, I thought, "They are going to ask me," so I just wanted you to know that they said it was probably a co-relational relationship with poverty factors.

Assemblyman Livermore:

Did you say that one school district did not offer the Summer Food program because of transportation?

Donnell Barton:

No. Summer Food is optional for the school districts. They can do what we call a Seamless Summer program, or they can sign up for the Summer Food program. It is a higher rate than the district would be reimbursed if they participated in Summer Food. Sometimes transportation can be an issue, and that usually tends to be more in the rural areas. When we are qualifying sites, we look at schools that are 50 percent or greater. We encourage the district or a sponsor to locate the areas where the students receive the meals close to where that school is, if not on the school campus.

Assemblyman Livermore:

So there is some part of the program, I think I heard you say, that included the funding element that would support transportation. How do the students going to summer lunch and breakfast programs get to the school to get their meals?

Donnell Barton:

Most of the time they walk or ride their bicycles, or their parents bring them to the school or wherever the meal site is. There have been some USDA grants, but again, it was for rural transportation to help get meals to kids in rural settings. But in the urban setting, there has been no such grant and Nevada has not gone after those rural grants. Our sponsors did not indicate that they would be willing to participate on the grants.

Chair Mastroluca:

Is it correct that the reason they do the programs at the schools is because the majority of students have easy access, especially in Clark County, and most of our neighborhood school students live within either walking distance or less than a few miles?

Donnell Barton:

That is correct.

Chair Mastroluca:

Are there any more questions? [There was no response.] Thank you both very much.

I will invite Clark County School District and Washoe County School District to come up. While they do, children from Lincoln Park Elementary School in Washoe County have written letters and drawn pictures about how they feel about breakfast in the classroom, so we are going to share those with the Committee.

Nicole Rourke, Executive Director, Government Affairs, Clark County School District:

I would like to share with you that our new superintendent, Dwight Jones, is dedicated to feeding kids who are hungry. As a Colorado Commissioner of Education, he partnered with the Governor of Colorado to deliver the school breakfast challenge, and I have a prop to show you. Still in its first year of implementation, the program provides information about the impact of school breakfast in a child's education, health, and well-being. The program also provides incentives to schools funded by private contributions. These cereal boxes show a picture of the Colorado Governor and the Commissioner of Education—our new superintendent—surrounded by children, and there are a lot of materials on the incentive program and information for various schools within it. Mr. Jones lent me one of the kits which were delivered to every school in Colorado, trying to improve their breakfast and lunch participation.

Please know that school nutrition programs are a top priority for Mr. Jones and he is a proponent of ensuring that children start the day with a full stomach and ready to learn.

I would like to introduce the Clark County School District's (CCSD) food service director, Charles Anderson, and our district dietician, Virginia Beck. They are here to tell you about several efforts already under way to improve CCSD's breakfast and lunch participation.

Charles E. Anderson, Director, Food Service Department, Clark County School District:

I would like to introduce Virginia Beck, who is our dietician, and she will make the presentation this afternoon.

Virginia Beck, Dietician, Food Service Department, Clark County School District:

I appreciate the opportunity to talk to the Committee today. We have a PowerPoint on child nutrition programs that I believe was uploaded to your system ([Exhibit K](#)). I will add information to what you see on those slides. We are very, very proud of what we have done to increase our participation. You will see on the first slide, our National School Breakfast Program, between January 2010 and January 2011 had a 16.5 percent increase, which equated to 41,185 breakfasts served per day in 2011 compared to 36,232 in 2010. I would like to point out that we serve a hot breakfast in all of our schools before the bell. This includes three options for entrees for the students as well as side dishes of fresh fruit, canned fruit, yogurt, cheese, juice, and milk. As you can see, we are getting a better participation rate. In our secondary schools we serve a Grab-n-Go, and that enables the kids to take part at a quicker pace.

On the second slide, you will see that our National School Lunch Program participation rate between increased 17.25 percent January 2010 and January 2011. That equated to 153,860 meals served each day in 2011 compared to 131,217 in 2010. We serve lunch in all of our schools.

Our After School Snack Program currently is available in 90 of our at-risk schools. Those schools not only serve snacks. As you can see, we serve 7,225 snacks each day, connected with after-school programs that include tutoring, dance, chorus, and other enrichment programs. Saturday snacks are available at three schools, and their programs go all day long.

We do not have the year-round schools any longer, and we are concerned about those students that normally received breakfast and lunch at schools throughout the summer months. So two months ago we began having meetings with our instruction unit, transportation department, facilities, Title I, and extended school year (ESY) programs so that we could coordinate to cover as many students as we could during the summer months. We have already planned on providing for the students at 133 locations during June and July; however, we are unable to provide during August because our schools will be closed. We brought Three Square Food Bank into the equation. We met with them, and they are working hard to pick up where we will leave off this summer. We are working very hard to make sure that all children will have those programs available. From June 3 through June 13 we are going to have 133 Title I sites,

and July 1 through 29 we are going to have 25 sites for the ESY students. All of these sites are open sites. What that means in the Summer Food language is that these are free of charge to all students between ages 2 and 18. So it is not simply the students that are attending the Title I or ESY programs; they are open to the neighborhood children as well. We will publicize all of our sites that are going to be open as well as the other community sites, and those sites are through, as Ms. Barton said, the Summer Food Service program. They will provide us with a list of where their sites are going to be, and we will publicize them through our school. The Three Square Food Bank is going to put them on its website as well. So we are going to do everything in our power to make sure that students know where they can receive breakfast and lunch, and at all of our sites we will be serving both.

I know Ms. Barton explained what Provision 2 schools are. They designate that all schools with the highest percentages of students qualify for both free breakfast and lunch. We do have eight Provision 2 schools.

Chair Mastroluca:

I understand that you have eight that are Provision 2 schools, but are you telling me that you do not have more than eight schools in the Clark County School District that have more than 75 or 80 percent free and reduced lunch?

Virginia Beck:

We do have more than 75 percent, but in order to reach nearly a break-even point, our criteria is 95 percent.

Chair Mastroluca:

So the school has to have 95 percent or more free and reduced lunch eligible to be allowed to apply for Provision 2 status?

Virginia Beck:

Yes.

On the next slide, we see the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. You may not be familiar with this grant program, which provides between \$50 and \$75 per student for the year in order to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables. The state receives a certain amount of money. This year it was \$1,400,000, and they divide it among the schools that they approve to receive this grant. This year they chose enough schools to where they are spending \$52 per pupil for the year. Now we have 18 participating schools, which is an increase from the four schools prior to this year, and we have received rave reviews from these schools. Students are saying, "We did not know what a kiwi fruit was." They are served fruit and vegetables, too, such as turnips; who would think that kids

would want to be eating turnips, but they do. Schools must be high-risk and our food service department provides the fresh produce. We deliver it to the school from one to four days per week, and they incorporate nutrition lessons along with the fruit. We have big pictures that show the fruit as it is growing in the fields or on the trees, so the students are not only participating in eating unfamiliar foods but also learning about those foods and where and how they are grown.

Our total grant award for this year was \$615,503 and all of our schools are on target to use all funds by June 30. There was a problem in the past with schools not using up their awards, but I prompt them every month: "You must order more this month; we have to use up your awards." So they are on target to use the entire awards.

Chair Mastroluca:

Will the school district be applying for this grant next year?

Virginia Beck:

Yes. I have already received word from three sponsors asking when they can apply. All of my sponsors are planning on applying again for next year and we will have additional schools doing it. Of course, as you can see, the state receives a finite amount of money that must be disbursed, and the lowest that they can get is \$50 per student. So we will get in as many schools as we can.

Chair Mastroluca:

So next year—I believe Clark County is eligible for 21 or 22 schools—you do not think you will have a problem filling the additional spots?

Virginia Beck:

I do not, no. There are more than enough schools anxious to apply.

Chair Mastroluca:

That is great to hear. Please continue.

Virginia Beck:

The next slide shows our backpack program. We do this in conjunction with Three Square Food Bank. Three Square is our food bank in southern Nevada, and they prepare that pack for the students who are at high risk for going hungry over the weekend. We, as a food service department, have helped to deliver those backpacks. We deliver to 85 schools, which is an increase of 20 schools over last year. So we feel it is important to be a partner with Three Square Food Bank to help those students who may go hungry over the weekend.

In our school district, we also prepare special diet meals for students who have documented allergies or food intolerances. There are 30 different menus that help these students participate in school lunch, and the majority of these students were never able to eat school lunch until two years ago. I have had parents call me and say, "It is so exciting for my student to be able to eat school lunch with friends." The meals include food that is gluten-free, dairy-free, egg-free, and soy-free. We also do pureed mechanical soft-diet sauce. We have 30 different special menus for the students. I currently have 230 students who receive special meals every day, and to me it is very exciting that these students are able to participate in school lunch. I have also had parents call whose students are on free and reduced, and they are excited because this relieves them of the burden of trying to provide special meals for their children at school.

As Ms. Barton and Ms. Martini indicated, Clark County piloted a program last year in January. We initiated the reduced price to free lunch at that time and we have continued it through the 2010-2011 school year. It has impacted 20,127 students who would have had reduced price status. They would have had to pay 30 cents for breakfast and 40 cents for lunch, which may seem like a small amount of money, but if you have a family of four or five kids, that can add up quickly if you are on the edge. We have that program in place for this entire year. All reduce-priced students eat for free.

Last April, we instituted Grab-n-Go breakfast at secondary schools, which was a terrific boon to our participation. This year we partnered with Three Square Food Bank, Vegas PBS, the JGS Group, and other sponsors to do a pilot program at five high-risk middle schools. We have campaigned with banners, trash cans, and other items that have the "Got Fuel" label. We put carts in the hallways and in areas outside the multipurpose room so students have more access to breakfast. The five middle schools involved were Fremont, Garside, Bridger, Brinley, and Cashman, and it was a very well-received program.

We are quite excited to be in the planning stages of a Grab-n-Go universal breakfast pilot program for elementary schools with an 80 percent or higher free and reduced rate. This pilot program will provide a universal breakfast, free for all students in that school, and it is being planned for the 2011-2012 school year. We are in the process of selecting 38 high-risk schools to pilot the program. This would allow 26,000 students to receive free breakfast at school. This Grab-n-Go breakfast is going to include entrees such as tortillas and string cheese, oatmeal banana bars, whole-grain muffins, cereal, yogurt, and other side dishes, as well as fresh fruit and milk. This will be served in the multipurpose room. It is going to be a trick-or-treating Halloween-type affair where they are going to grab their bag, walk down the line, put their items in

their bags, and carry them back to the classroom to eat as a group in the classroom after the bell.

Because participation in breakfast is such a concern right now, the Clark County School District Food Service Department commissioned a study by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). We found many interesting results from that study. We wanted to find out why we did not increase participation more than we did. The study showed that 75 percent of the parents and the children reported that they eat breakfast at home. That is a difficult barrier to get by. One reason was food preferences. We have many cultures in Clark County, and some have very distinct food preferences. There is also the family's sense of responsibility. Many of the families are very proud that they can feed their children. Some people dislike breakfast foods. Also some students are unable to be at the school before the bell, which is a big barrier. Of course, some of the buses do not arrive until right before the bell, which makes it difficult for the students to get breakfast before class. So that study was very enlightening. Still, we are moving ahead, trying to attract more students to participate in breakfast and increase our participation.

Assemblyman Hammond:

I keep hearing about how much work has gone into increasing the number of students in these programs, both breakfast and lunch. You talked about incredible numbers, such as 26,000 students. I hear in the news about our national obesity problem, and then you talk about the lack of breakfast and lunch during the summer months for some of these kids, and I keep going back and forth. Are we having a problem getting proper nutrition to these kids? Are they not eating well enough? Are they not eating at all? I am getting conflicting signals.

Virginia Beck:

Thank you for that question. It is an interesting one. Most studies show that students who eat both breakfast and lunch at school are less likely to be obese. We have very strict standards as far as what we provide for breakfast and lunch, calorically and for the nutrients that growing students need. However, that is not followed through at homes in many cases. It is unfortunate, but for a lot of our students, the best meal they are going to receive during the day is their lunch at school. At home it may be potato chips and soda pop for dinner. Most of the research also indicates that the students just are not getting enough physical activity. That is a big, big problem. It is very difficult in the high crime areas because most parents in those areas do not want their children to go out and play. They want them to stay inside where they are safe. It is a multi-pronged problem. It is not one that we can solve on our own, other

than to provide nutritious breakfasts and lunches for as many students as we can.

Assemblyman Hammond:

Nutrition is really important and so is having a good breakfast and lunch. I agree with that. Why is it, especially in Clark County, that many of the elementary school students are getting only 10 to 15 minutes to eat their lunch? My son often says he did not even get a chance to eat his lunch because he had to go to the next thing, due to the way the kids are cycled through the school lunch cafeteria. I really like this Grab-n-Go program, where they might be able to eat in the classrooms, but we are limiting how many times kids go out and play. If you could speak to that, I think it would be really important to hear.

Virginia Beck:

In elementary schools we provide recess before lunch, so the kids do get out and have some physical activity. The regulations also state that students must have 20 minutes seat time in order to eat their meals. Sometimes this is difficult in the larger schools. We do our best to serve the students at a very fast rate and we get as many helpers as we can. In most of our elementary schools, students are getting that 20-minute seat time for lunch. In the secondary schools—as I said earlier, and Ms. Martini was kind enough to give us kudos for our Grab-n-Go lunch—we not only have the usual combo meals but also six different Grab-n-Go meals, which really helps the lines move a lot faster. When I have been out to the schools to observe, those lines really go at a quick pace. Those Grab-n-Go's have the entire meal in a clamshell-type container and they are ready to go. It is similar to a fast food restaurant. The meals are numbered. A student comes up to the window and says, I will take a number 2, and I want juice with that, or I want milk with that, or I want both, and they are off. They are all ready to go. So we are doing our best to streamline things and putting extra carts out so that students do not have those long lines that you were just indicating your son might have. Does that answer your question?

Assemblyman Hammond:

I think so.

Assemblywoman Pierce:

I wanted to say something about what Mr. Hammond brought up. I am certainly not an expert on this, but I know a little from reading over the years. Low-income people do not have access to fruits and vegetables because large supermarkets will not move into low-income neighborhoods. That is a problem all over the country. Low-income people have to travel long distances to have

access to fruits and vegetables and the kind of food that creates good nutrition. If you are a low-income parent and your kid is a latchkey child and going home in the afternoon, you do not want your child out in a high-crime neighborhood playing, so that adds to it. There are a lot of factors that go with the problem of obesity in this country; it is really multifaceted.

Assemblywoman Flores:

Ms. Pierce read my mind, because that is exactly what I was going to say. The phenomenon she referred to, when there is a lack of fresh produce available, is called "food deserts". Of course, nutritious food tends to be more expensive. Oftentimes students get their most nutritious meal during the day at school because they cannot afford a more nutritious meal in the evening. Obviously chips and soda are much less expensive than something more nutritious.

Chair Mastroluca:

That is an excellent point. Because of today's economy, unfortunately food deserts are not limited to low-income areas. They are definitely moving into middle-class neighborhoods. Grocery stores are closing in places where there have been grocery stores for 15 to 20 years, and families are left without the opportunity to access those fresh fruits and vegetables and make better food choices for themselves. Thank you for bringing that up.

Virginia Beck:

On page 7 of the district report, we have used Gecko Wrap in many of our secondary schools, eleven of them so far to promote the appearance of the food court. As you can see on your next slide, it is very colorful, and the students just love it. It incorporates their school mascot along with a lot of the food items that we provide in the food court atmosphere. I will not go into detail on our new equipment other than to say that it has enabled us to provide better meals for the students at a lower price for us. We do provide a vegetable, a fruit cup, and fresh fruit now with every meal, breakfast, and lunch. All of this comes with a cost, and the last slide details what it costs us over and above our reimbursement from the federal government. We do not want to leave money on the table, but sometimes when we take that money, it is at a cost to our department to be able to have these programs in place. Thank you very much for the opportunity to talk and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Chair Mastroluca:

Thank you for your presentation, Ms. Beck, and it is nice to see you again, Mr. Anderson. Are there any last questions for the people at Clark County School District? [There was no response.] Thank you very much.

Rick Harris, Senior Administrator, Washoe County School District:

We are here today to talk about breakfast. We are going to focus on breakfast, although we are really proud of many of the programs. Our fresh fruits and vegetables—we have 21 schools and we are going to be adding to that program again next year. It has just exploded.

For today's presentation, we will stick with what has happened to breakfast in the last few years and our confidence in the increased participation in the district. In our PowerPoint ([Exhibit L](#)), the second slide is historical five-year participation for breakfast. We are going to walk you through what we believe is a good recipe for adding breakfast in our schools. Our strategy is based on partnering with our schools to help them. Once they get all the information, and research, we are finding that schools are much more receptive to having breakfast in the classroom and are very interested in the nutritional issues that we have been discussing today. We basically partner with a site. We go to the staff, who are already getting ready for next month, and start working on our next group of breakfast in the classroom—we call them targeted schools—and provide the data on their current participation and what other schools are doing. We bring in current principals and teachers and have conversations with the staff about the success of the program.

We also want to respect individual sites. They all have different needs, and we try to give them the resources they need to have a breakfast at their schools.

The next couple of slides show research that we share with them and a testimonial from one of our teachers. I am really proud of Alice Maxwell Elementary School. It was the first school in our district to have breakfast in the classroom, and after 11 years is still going strong. One of our teachers there is a big supporter. We also show some of the things that we forget sometimes: the basic needs of kids. Even though we have instructional time, complex issues, and high poverty, when we start looking at needs and the research, it really enlightens the staff. That is the highlight of the next couple of slides. When you get to the slide that says, "Control What We Can Control," it is a powerful slide, because we talk about all the issues that we cannot control in school. As you all know, there are many of those issues, but this is one that we may have an opportunity to control. Either in person or on video clips, we have our staff, teachers, principals, or colleagues talking about how it has impacted their school. One of my favorite videos is from a principal who came from a school that had higher demographics but now is at a high-risk school that has breakfast in the classroom. He talks about how the kids at his other school were always hungry and now that kids have breakfast and lunch—even though he is in a high-poverty school—they do not need to have little snacks for the kids for stomachaches, because their nutritional needs

are met. I am going to have Tony go over the next couple of slides and then we will take any questions you have.

Tony Cook, Director, Nutrition Services Center, Washoe County School District:
We did a case study at Veterans Memorial Elementary School, where a new principal was coming in from an area without as much need as Veterans Memorial had. This was a high free and reduced school, above 90 percent, and we wanted to launch breakfast in the classroom there. Basically, we walked in the door and were told by the custodian that they had voted unanimously against breakfast in the classroom and it was not for their school. So we went through the process of talking with the staff and walking them through the whole program. Even though this was a high-needs school, they were serving breakfast each day to only 57 to 157 kids out of a population of 420 students. So we took breakfast in the classroom to the kids, and by giving them a pretty wide variety—everything from scrambled eggs and toast all the way down to a whole-grain muffin, depending on the particular day—we were able to increase participation from roughly 30 percent to 88.2 percent. We are now serving 370 students a day in that school, compared to an average of 126 previously.

We have seen this over and over again with schools where we add breakfast in the classroom, such as the six Provision 2 schools we added this year. The four elementary schools are breakfast in the classroom. The middle school will move to breakfast in the classroom next year, and the high school will participate in a Grab-n-Go, mainly because of the way the high school campus is spread out. It is just not feasible to get the breakfast to every classroom in those schools.

The next slide has frequently asked questions. After we sit down with teachers and talk about how breakfast can impact the kids, some of the most reluctant teachers become proponents of change. We see it as a future for continued growth for Washoe County School District. We are using the Nevada Department of Education's spreadsheet in evaluating every school. There was a question earlier on whether the criterion is 75 or 85 percent. The reality is that it is different in every school. We have seen that there are schools that can make it work at 72 or 73 percent. We have seen schools that cannot make it work at 88 percent just because of their labor factors, food costs, or distribution problems.

Chair Mastroluca:

So you are saying that you do not use the Department's calculation and you do not necessarily use a standard flat-rate calculation as Clark County School District does? You have actually done a school-by-school calculation?

Tony Cook:

We do use the Nevada Department of Education's spreadsheet. We made that spreadsheet usable for us to identify each individual school, so it is not based on a percent of free and reduced eligibility, although that is the beginning marker. We have taken every school that is at 70 percent free and reduced eligibility and plugged it into this data sheet. The spreadsheet will identify the cost implications if you provide it with the detailed information from every school.

Breakfast in the classroom is one of the larger areas where we look to increase participation. If you look back on the second slide in the presentation, where we show a 20 percent participation—that is overall participation in breakfast—it may not look like a significant number today in this. We are serving about 4,000 more kids a day—breakfast this year versus last year—which is significant in the district. We anticipate that number to continue to grow each year. If we are able to add the additional six schools, it will bring that number up substantially next year.

Chair Mastroluca:

Are you also trying to collect data for the future, to be able to see if you can show correlation between the progress that these students are making and the schools that have breakfast programs?

Tony Cook:

Yes, we are keeping track of that data. We have a lot of empirical but short-term data from principals and teachers telling us that there is better attentiveness, better attendance, and kids are getting to school on time because they know that breakfast is there.

If you go around from school to school, usually five to ten minutes after the bell, breakfast is finished. We are going to start collecting that data more readily. We were not in a position to do that until this year.

Chair Mastroluca:

We would appreciate any of that data that you can share with us as you start to put it together.

Are there any questions? [There was no response.] Thank you very much.

It is a very impressive program. I am really excited to see where you have gone already and I am looking forward to hearing from more schools. One of the teachers who provided the letters and drawings that were passed out to the Committee shared with me her experience of having breakfast in the classroom

and the difference it has made. She can see that students can sit still longer and they can focus better. Behavioral problems have decreased for certain students. She could definitely correlate it to the fact that they were hungry in the past. Thank you for your work.

Assemblywoman Smith:

I wanted to take the opportunity to say hello to Mr. Harris. He was the principal at Alice Maxwell Elementary School, the school he referenced, which has had breakfast in the school for so long, and which was the school my children attended. I am sure nutrition is one part of it, but that school, with a very changing demographic, has managed to do well over the years.

Paula Berkley, representing Food Bank of Northern Nevada:

I have to confess that the Food Bank of Northern Nevada was responsible for all these pages that you see today. We have been advocating in the State Legislature for six years to increase breakfast in the classroom. We started out three sessions ago, helping to pass a unanimous resolution to increase school breakfast in classrooms by 15 percent, and after two years not a single school had shown that progress. So we came back and said, here are 10 successful examples that have been implemented in some part of Nevada. What do you think about these? For some reason, no one was jumping up and down at the school level. So we came back and said we needed to create a base or a way to start figuring out who is doing well, what they are doing when they do it well, and then let us track our progress in it. As Donnell Barton stated, if we are 53rd in the nation in school breakfast and school lunch, and we are talking about 250,000 kids that are food insecure right now in Nevada, there is less opportunity for improvement. As you can see, there are lots of improvements going on in Nevada. When I lived in Texas, we used to say, "When you got the dog running downhill, keep whoppin' him." So that is what we are going to do. We are going to keep the pressure up and then continue to recommend that you keep these performance measures in place.

In your letter of intent, we actually asked for four years of data for each one of the schools. The reason we did that was not to be mean, but to be able to see a pattern. Things go up and things go down, and if we all stay in the same place on average, we have not progressed. That is why we need to continue this data collection over time to make sure that in areas where we are doing well, we need to continue to do it. In areas where we are not doing well, we need to figure out who is doing it that can teach us. Over time, I think that can only be done by the performance plan. As Mr. Sherwood picked up earlier today, we did miss \$55 million that was available for school breakfast and school lunch last year. That \$55 million would feed a lot of kids. So the more we can get close to higher participation rates, the more dollars are coming to

Nevada, the more kids the schools can feed, and the cheaper it is to feed them. So everyone is winning.

There are a number of studies that show what eating does for scholastic achievement. There is no doubt that if kids are hungry, their chances of scholastic achievement go down. When they are fed, they can think, focus, and participate. I think everyone in this room has experienced that. If you skip breakfast before you come here at 8 o'clock in the morning, it is hard to listen. That is the same thing with these kids, but they did not have an option. It happens day after day, and they are waiting for lunch to have that first meal of the day. It is not acceptable.

The studies show that not only does scholastic achievement go up, but as Washoe County School District mentioned, if you show up to class on time in order to eat, you have less tardiness, you go to the school nurse less, and you miss fewer days. So it is a health issue as well as a scholastic issue. I always say, "It is the vehicle for success in life. It might be the school. But it is the fuel that goes into the vehicle that makes it move." Without that fuel, it is just not going to happen.

An assistant superintendent at the Washoe County School District has a good saying that I have said ad nauseum over the last two years: "Whatever you measure, you treasure. And whatever you treasure, you measure." So we have got to keep our eye on how many kids are eligible, how many kids are we feeding, and are those numbers going up or going down?

There was a question about the reduced price, and the reason we picked out only Clark County, Carson City, and Washoe County. When you are trying to drop that reduced price, you have to have enough kids and you have to have a low price for food. The more kids you are feeding, the better price break you get when you buy food. So out in the rurals, it really is not fair to say they should drop that reduced price because the numbers just do not compute. We did not want to ask people to look at things that would not work. That is why we initially recommended those three counties.

I thought this was an interesting track that they now had. In the "Trends" section of *Running with a Spork*, it shows the total funds reimbursed to each of the programs. I think when you look at that, it is obvious that the first column shows \$82 million brought in for school lunch in the last federal fiscal year. With school breakfast it is \$14.8 million. So you can see that even though we already know who is hungry and they are eating lunch, we are not feeding them breakfast. But at least we know who they are. I think nationally they recommend a goal to receive 60 percent of everyone who is eating lunch,

because maybe they do not want breakfast and those kinds of things. That is the goal you should reach.

On the Summer Food program, it is very flat in numbers because it is provided only by nonprofits. We are also very concerned with Clark County since they are not going to be doing year-round schools, and a lot of the kids who have historically depended on that breakfast and lunch from school are not going to get them. Hooray for Three Square Food Bank trying to step into those shoes, but they are huge shoes, and we are going to need the school districts to help us just like in Washoe County.

Assemblywoman Pierce:

Are there year-round schools in Washoe County?

Paula Berkley:

Yes, there are many.

The Food Bank of Northern Nevada started Kids Café 15 years ago, and we were kind of the national model for Summer Food. We kept that going and growing, and we know that the need is almost infinite. The reason the Food Bank is always bugging the schools about feeding kids is because we realize we have our hands full trying to fill little backpacks on the weekends and feeding Summer Food programs. We cannot do it all. So if we can get the schools to do their part and we do our part, then we have a fighting chance together.

Chair Mastroluca:

Are there any other questions? [There was no response.] Thank you very much, and thank you for your commitment to this very important issue.

**Karen Spears, Ph.D., R.D., Assistant Professor, Nutrition State Specialist,
Department of Nutrition, University of Nevada, Reno:**

For five years I have done research in the area of school meal programs, and in various aspects, one that has not been done very well from the USDA is in their last document of evaluating school breakfast programs or actually, all school meal programs that did not really do nutrient intake at the individual level. That is what I have been focusing on: how much does the child eat for breakfast, and how much does the child eat at lunch. In order to capture that, we weigh the food they select before they pick it up, and weigh back what they consume. So it is very unique in a special way. In two years, I could actually analyze all the data. It tells you exactly how much a child eats in nutrition. We also ask the child to rate his hunger level. We are assuming children are hungry when they come to school, and as a researcher I want to see if that assumption is

true. So we have a sliding scale by which the children indicate if they are hungry or not when they arrive to school. They also indicate if they ate breakfast at home and what it consisted of. So we have been able to evaluate those children who eat at home, how hungry they are, and those children who do not. In the future, I would like to share those results with you. We did an evaluation of school breakfasts, including when breakfast was provided to the children in a Provision 2 school. Of course, at that time it was provided in Washoe County, so it is required to be in the classroom, so about 98 percent participated, of course 0 percent before they even had school breakfast. In Clark County, we were able to evaluate when school breakfast was served in the cafeteria and then when it moved into the classroom. We have those numbers. About 33 percent of students participated when it was in the cafeteria, and close to 98 percent when it moved into the classroom.

As to your concern, Assemblyman Hammond, we do evaluate how much a child ate before they came and after, and then we do a 24-hour recall to evaluate how much they consume in a full day. You are correct. Some children do double eat. They will eat breakfast at home and then eat breakfast again at school. So there is that risk of perpetuating obesity because they did exceed their calories. Our next goal is to provide education so that the family members know that if they have the option of having free breakfast in the classroom, that would free up their disposable income in order to pay rent and other things. I think once that education is addressed, we would reduce the potential for obesity that could come with double-eating breakfast. It is an important issue. I wanted to also mention that about 50 percent do not eat breakfast before they come to school. So we have single-eating breakfast, not eating breakfast, and double-eating breakfast. Hopefully we can address that as an education component.

Chair Mastroluca:

Are there any questions? [There was no response.]

Is there anyone here for public comment, either in Las Vegas or Carson City?

Craig M. Stevens, Director of Government Relations, Nevada State Education Association:

Thank you, Madam Chair, for holding this hearing. Having our kids come to school where, before being educated, having a full belly is a great thing for them and especially for our educators. It gets the kids ready to learn and gets them ready for their day. I cannot tell you how important it is, even though sometimes—as we heard earlier—it may take five or ten minutes at the beginning of the class, but you cannot beat that five or ten minutes of

preparation for the rest of the school day. Thank you again for hearing testimony.

Chair Mastroluca:

Are there any questions? [There was no response.]

Is there anyone else for public comment, either in Carson City or Las Vegas? [There was no response.]

The meeting was adjourned [at 3:18 p.m.].

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Linda Whimple
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Assemblywoman April Mastroluca, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBITS

Committee Name: Committee on Health and Human Services

Date: March 9, 2011

Time of Meeting: 1:33 p.m.

Bill	Exhibit	Witness / Agency	Description
	A		Agenda
	B		Attendance Roster
	C	Donnell Barton	Letter of Intent
	D	Donnell Barton	School Meals Fiscal Impact Report
	E	Donnell Barton	School Breakfast Scorecard
	F	Donnell Barton	School Breakfast in America's Big Cities
	G	Donnell Barton	Running with a Spork
	H	Mindy Martini	Quick Poll
	I	Mindy Martini	Quick Poll Survey Results
	J	Donnell Barton	Breakfast Comparison Adequate Yearly Progress
	K	Virginia Beck	Clark County School District Child Nutrition Programs
	L	Rick Harris	Washoe County School District Breakfast Participation