

A Parent's
Guide to Understanding
No Child Left Behind
in Nevada and
Washoe County



A publication
provided by the:
Parent Information & Resource Center
Education Collaborative of Washoe County, Inc.



For more information contact:
The Parent Information & Resource Center
353-5533
dcrain@washoe.k12.nv.us
www.e-collaborative.org/pirc.html

education
collaborative
of washoe county, inc.

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	<p>NCLB No Child Left Behind</p>	<p>NCLB, Nevada and Washoe County....</p>	<p>What it Means to Parents...</p>	<p>More Information...</p>	
<p>Academic Goals (Standards)</p>	<p>All schools in the United States must maintain a list of the academic goals for each grade level.</p> <p>Example: A first grader should know how to write a simple story.</p>	<p>Nevada schools have academic standards at every grade level (k-12) for reading, writing, math, science and social studies.</p>	<p>Each year parents should know and have access to the academic standards for their child's grade level.</p>	<p>Ask your school for a copy of the standards. You can also get a copy online: English - www.washoe.k12.nv.us/ctl/parentguidesEng.html Spanish - www.washoe.k12.nv.us/ctl/parentguidesspan.html</p>	<p>Academic Goals (Standards)</p>
<p>Teacher Qualifications</p>	<p>Math, English, science, social studies, etc. (core subjects) teachers in Nevada must be “highly qualified” by July 1, 2006. Teachers new to the profession who are hired at Title I schools must be “highly qualified” at the time of hire.</p> <p>Highly qualified means that teachers must hold an appropriate state license and demonstrate competency in the area that they teach.</p>		<p>Parents have the right to ask for information about their child's teacher.</p> <p>Some questions to ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Is my child's teacher appropriately licensed? ➔ What is the educational background of my child's teacher? ➔ What are the qualifications of the aides/assistants working with my child? 	<p>Ask your school about information on “highly qualified” teachers.</p>	<p>Teacher Qualifications</p>
<p>Paraprofessionals (Teachers' Aides)</p>	<p>By 2006 paraprofessionals in Title I schools must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ attend two years of college (48 credits), OR ➔ have an associates degree, OR ➔ pass the ParaPro Assessment. 	<p>Nevada requires testing for teachers' aides that do not have two years of college. Nevada is using the ParaPro Assessment, administered by Educational Testing Service (ETS), helping teacher's aides to prepare for the test.</p>		<p>Information about the ParaPro Assessment is available online at www.ets.org/parapro</p>	<p>Paraprofessionals (Teachers' Aides)</p>

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Student Assessment
(Testing)

Every school must provide **tests each year** to check for student knowledge and progress.

Beginning in the 2005-2006 school year, the state must administer the **math and language arts/reading assessments** in all grades 3-8 and at least once in grades 10-12.

Beginning in the 2007-2008 school year, the state must administer **science achievement tests** at least once during elementary, middle, and high school.

Nevada currently tests students in math and language arts/reading assessments using the **Criterion Referenced Tests** in grades 3,5, and 8.

Beginning in the 2005-2006 school year students in grades **3 through 8** will be tested in math, language arts/reading and science.

Schools must inform parents of changes in testing through a variety of ways such as newsletters, parent meetings, and public announcement.

Parents may request a meeting with the school at any time for an explanation of the testing process and any general changes in the format, such as the addition of science.

The **CRTs** have been approved by the Nevada State Department of Education and meet the federal government's guidelines.

Parents should receive a report from their child's school listing their child's scores.

Information about the CRTs are available online www.nevadatestreports.com/

Parents can ask for information about the CRTs at their child's school or call the school district office at 348-0200.

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Every child in grades 3 through 8 **will be tested**. The test results will show how well children are achieving on state content standards. Every school must publish its progress.

In order to see if a certain group is falling behind, the **information will be separated** into categories (“disaggregated”) by:

- ➔ Economic background (free and reduced lunch)
- ➔ Race and ethnicity
- ➔ English proficiency
- ➔ Disability

The law requires that 95% of all **students in each category must participate** in the statewide testing program.

Nevada has adopted “**report cards**” or **accountability reports for each school** to let parents know how well the school is meeting NCLB requirements.

Categorizing and publishing information will allow parents to know if groups of students are falling behind, even if the school as a whole is meeting the requirements of NCLB.

Changes in the grade levels that are tested have occurred in order to meet revised legal requirements.

For example: Students with limited English proficiency are now required to take all of the tests with appropriate accommodations.

Ask your school for a copy of its report card (accountability report).

Each school’s report card is online at www.washoe.k12.nv.us/schools/

- ➔ Click on your child’s school.
- ➔ Each school’s accountability report is linked.

Ask to make an appointment with the school principal or vice principal, if you need help understanding the report card.

Call the Parent Information & Resource Center at 353-5533.

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All testing **must accommodate students with disabilities**. A separate assessment will be offered for students with severe cognitive disabilities who are unable to participate in regular state tests.

In each state, less than 1% of eligible students in each grade may take the alternate assessment.

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Most students with disabilities are required to participate in the **Skills and Competency Alternate Assessment of Nevada (SCAAN)** testing, with appropriate accommodation if necessary.

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Test accommodations or alternate tests for a student with special needs are decided at the Individual Education Plan (IEP) meeting. The IEP committee must include the parent, the current teacher, a school administrator and, in some cases, the student or counselor.

Parents are encouraged to take an **active role in developing** their child's **Individualized Education Plan (IEP)**.

- **Schools must inform** parents of alternate testing or of any accommodations that will be provided.
- **Parents may inform** schools of any additional needs that their children may have during testing.

More Information...

Nevada Department of Education's special education information is online at www.doe.nv.gov/edteam/ndeoffices/sped-diversity-improve.html

Information about SCAAN is available by contacting **Peter Reynolds**, Consultant, Special Education Programs
Las Vegas Office: 1820 E. Sahara, Suite 208, Las Vegas NV 89104
(702) 486-6561 reynolds@nsn.k12.nv.us

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Limited English Proficiency

Limited English Proficiency

Beginning in school year 2002-2003, the state must require each school district to assess the **English proficiency of all students** with limited English proficiency (LEP).

Students with limited English proficiency must be tested in ways that fairly and accurately assess their knowledge.

Students who are new to the United States are not tested during their first year.

All limited English proficient students must be included in the assessment. Appropriate accommodations will be provided.

Categorizing and publishing information will allow parents to know if groups of students are falling behind even if the school as a whole is meeting the requirements of NCLB.

Changes in grade levels tested have occurred in order to meet revised legal requirements.

Ask the principal or vice principal for more information at your child's school. Ask if there is a translator available.

The Nevada State Department of Education's Special Education, Elementary and Secondary Education & School Improvement Department: www.doe.nv.gov/edteam/ndeoffices/sped-diversity-improve.html

The Office of English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement and Academic Achievement for Limited English Proficient Students administers this aspect of the NCLB Act, online at <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oela/index.html>

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Student progress will be **tracked separately in English and math**, and by demographics including:

- ➔ Race/ethnicity
- ➔ Economic background
- ➔ Level of English proficiency
- ➔ Disabilities

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) is required to improve, if a school is to remain in good standing.

AYP applies to all public and charter schools, not just Title I schools.

Scores are averaged across subject and grade level.

Continued improvement is expected until 100% of all students pass the **Criterion Referenced Test**.

AYP Information is typically published in the newspaper.

All CRT scores and each school's graduation rate must be reported to the public.

AYP information is included in each school's accountability report and can be found online.

Ask your school for a copy of their report card.

Each school's "report card" or accountability report is online at www.washoe.k12.nv.us/schools/

- ➔ Click on your child's school.
- ➔ Each school's summary of AYP is linked and is available on the third page of the document.

Ask to make an appointment with a school employee, if you need help understanding the report card.

Call the Parent Information & Resource Center at 353-5533, if you need help understanding the report card.

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<p>Family Involvement in Education</p>	<p>School districts will receive Title I federal funds only if they implement activities, programs, and procedures for involving parents in the education of their children. These activities, programs, and procedures must be planned with the “meaningful consultation” of parents.</p> <p>At least 1% of the Title I funds to schools must be designated for parent involvement.</p>	<p>Washoe County School District has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ A policy for parent involvement. ➔ A Parent Involvement Initiative Strategic Plan. ➔ A district wide Parent Involvement and Volunteer Services Coordinator. ➔ A Parent Involvement Facilitator at each Title I school. ➔ A district wide committee for Parent Involvement 	<p>Schools may have activities for parents to help their children succeed in school.</p> <p>Activities in schools can include: family reading/writing, homework tips, computer tips, math nights, etc.</p> <p>Ask your school for a calendar of events and take an active role in helping your child succeed!</p>	<p>Contact your school and ask how you can be more involved!</p>	<p>Family Involvement in Education</p>
<p>Supplemental Services and School Choice</p>	<p>Title I schools that do not make AYP two years in a row must provide school choice. Title I schools that do not make AYP three years in a row must provide school choice or supplemental services.</p> <p>Supplemental services (example: tutoring) must be offered first to the lowest achievers and to children from families who are economically disadvantaged.</p>	<p>School choice and supplemental services are the same in the Nevada Revised Statutes as they are stated in NCLB.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Schools are required to notify those students who are eligible for supplemental services. ➔ Parents can choose a provider from a state-approved list of supplemental service providers. ➔ Parents do not pay for supplemental services, if their child is eligible. ➔ School Choice means that parents may transfer their child to a designated school not identified for school improvement that made AYP. 	<p>You can get a copy of state approved supplemental service providers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ online at www.doe.nv.gov/accountability/nclb.html ➔ by calling the school district at 348-0200 ➔ by calling the Parent Information & Resource Center at 353-5533 	<p>Supplemental Services (example: tutoring)</p>

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School Safety

A student who is a victim of a violent crime at school or attends a “persistently dangerous” school may transfer to a “safe school” in the same district.

Washoe County School District has:

- School police assigned to each school.
- Anti-bullying programs
- Peer Mediation
- Training for teachers and staff on health and safety education.
- School intervention teams to work with individual students.

Washoe County School District had no persistently dangerous schools in the 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 school years.

Washoe County schools are actively engaged in promoting school safety.

Call the school district office at 348-0200.

For information regarding Safe and Drug Free Schools visit www.ed.gov/nclb/freedom/safety/creating.html

For information on Washoe County School District’s policies regarding safety visit the district’s web site at: www.washoe.k12.nv.us/district/policies/pdfs/5000_master.pdf

School Safety