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# Testimony Assembly Bill 506

Washoe County School District

Dr. Dotty Merrill, Senior Director

Public Policy, Accountability & Assessment

April 7, 2003

## The Decision about Administrators = Local Control

NRS 386.350

General powers. Each board of trustees is hereby given such reasonable and necessary powers, not conflicting with the constitution and the laws of the State of Nevada, as may be requisite to attain the ends for which the public schools, excluding charter schools, are established and to promote the welfare of school children, including the establishment and operation of schools and classes deemed necessary and desirable.

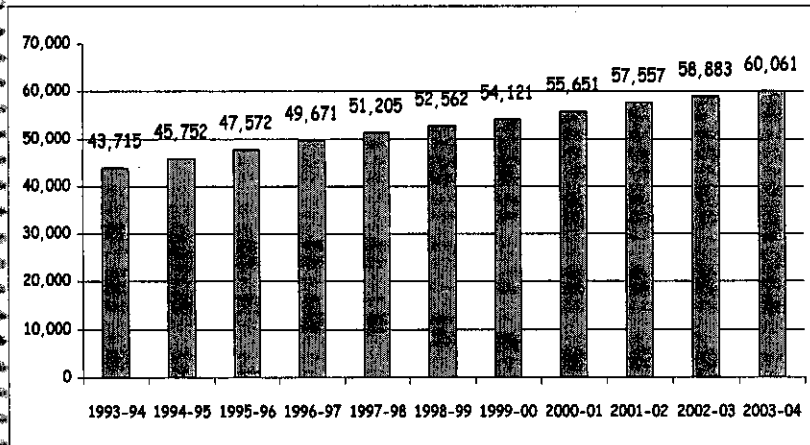
ASSEMBLY EDUCATION

DATE: 4/7/03 ROOM: 3143 EXHIBIT M

SUBMITTED BY: DR. DOTTY MERRILL

M 1/7

## Enrollment History



## Past Budget Reductions

In the past three fiscal years, WCS D has made the following budget reductions:

- \$13,801,000 in Cost Reductions
- 139.7 Staff Positions

## **FY04 Potential Budget Reductions**

For the first year of the biennium, WCSD is preparing a budget including the following reductions:

- \$20,170,000 in Cost Reductions
- 258 Staff Positions

## **Unscientific Perception**

- "The public perception of school administration is that it is a large bureaucracy diverting critical resources from instruction. But can this perception be backed up with facts?"

Source: 2000 Educational Research Service

## School Administration Facts

**"Although the public generally believes that there are too many school administrators, the fact is that the executive and managerial staff in public education supervise significantly more people than their counterparts in both public and private industry."**

Source: 2001 Educational Research Service

## What do the facts show?

- Good school management is recognized as essential for the development and operation of effective schools.
- Assertive instructional leadership by the school principal is the key element common to effective schools.
- School district administrative and professional staff are important to support, augment, and coordinate school programs to meet the needs of today's schools and students.

Source: 2000 Educational Research Service

## **Scientifically-Based Research: The Principal's Leadership Is an Essential Element for Effective Schools**

- Assertive instructional role
- Goal- and task-oriented
- Well-organized
- Conveys high expectations for students and staff
- Policies well-defined and communicated
- Frequent classroom visits
- High visibility and availability to students and staff
- Strong support for teaching staff
- Adept at parent and community relations

## **Missing Incentives**

**"That stellar teachers aren't jumping at the chance to break into administration isn't surprising—the incentives just aren't there for tackling what many view as being among the nation's most demanding and thankless jobs."**

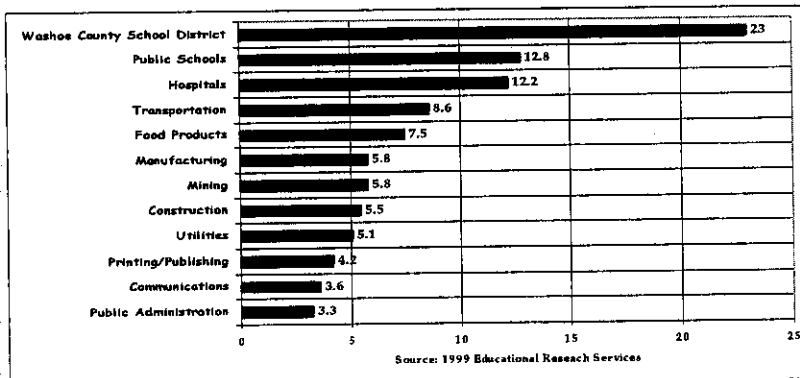
**Source:** "Leadership: The Toughest Job in America," from American School Board Journal, Education Vital Signs 2003

## More about the facts. . . .

Local school districts are major enterprises performing important public functions with substantially fewer management personnel than found in business and industry.

The Washoe County School District is the largest employer in Washoe County.

## National Ratio of Employees to Administrators by Industry



## WCSD Admin Ratio to Students and Staff

2002-03 Enrollment	Ratio of Stu to Admin*	Ratio of Staff to Admin*	Ratio to Both Staff and Stu to Admin*	Funding Source
58883	359.04	23	382.04	Genl Funds Only
58883	326.13	23	349.13	All Funds

\* Includes all licensed administrators paid on the administrator salary schedule

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M 7/7