

Elko County School District Accountability Analysis

The balance of the Elko County School District's report provided pertinent information in a well-organized tabular format. Data concerning individual schools and district wide averages were provided where appropriate. The report did not, however, include individual building reports.

1. *A summary of the student performance and school characteristics deemed relevant to the evaluation of the district's school performance based on data submitted to the State Board of Education and LeBEAPE in Part I school reports and Part II district-wide reports.*

Number of Pupils

The enrollment in the Elko County Schools declined 1.7% over the previous year to a level of 10,444 students according to the district report.

Student Attendance Rate

The district-wide attendance rate improved by 1.2% for a rate of 94.1% for 1998-99.

Teacher Attendance Rate

The Elko School District's teachers also improved in their attendance rate from 94.3% the previous year to 94.9% during 1998-1999.

Dropout and Non-Promotion Rates

The district dropout rate was 3.7% in all secondary schools. A notable improvement was reported at Owyhee High School. They reduced their dropout percentage from 12% in 1997-98 to 2% in 1998-99.

Percentages of students retained in a grade level, rather than being promoted to the next grade varied from 1.4% in fifth grade to 6.2% in seventh grade. The only other grade levels with more than two percent retained were kindergarten, where 2.8% were retained; first grade where the rate was 5.9%; and eighth grade, where the non-promotion rate was 4.9%.

Truancy Rate

The truancy rate, expressed as a percentage students with ten-day unexcused absences, was minimal 0.9% in Elko County.

Transiency Rate

The district-wide transiency rate of 22% during 1998-99 represented a 3% decrease from the previous school year.

Student/Teacher Ratios

The information reported did not reflect the implementation of the Elko County School District's pilot class size reduction program in 1999-2000. Elementary school average class sizes were quite stable with a range of 16-21 reported in kindergarten classes, 11-28 in first grade, 13-22 in second grade, and 13-25 in third grade. Intermediate grade level sizes ranged from 25 to 28. Secondary class size in English, math, science and social studies ranged from 14 to 28.

Student/Counselor Ratio

The Elko County Schools reported a minimal drop in the counselor/student ratio from 460 the previous year to 454 during the 1998-99 school year, reflecting the slight enrollment decline of the district. The actual number ranged from 1:265 to 1:875.

Suspension/Expulsion rate

District-wide, suspensions or expulsions resulted from 268 cases of violence to students and 48 cases of possession of alcohol. West Wendover Combined School reported the most instances of violence to other students with 73 incidents, and Elko High School had the most cases of alcohol possession with 19 incidents. Other causes for suspension or expulsions were far less frequent. The district rate for violence to students was up considerably from the previous year.

State Mandated Test Results: TerraNova: Fourth Grade.

Terra Nova Results 4th Grade

SUBJECT	% BOTTOM QUARTER			% TOP QUARTER			AVERAGE PERCENTILE RANK		
	97-98	98-99	99-00	97-98	98-99	99-00	97-98	98-99	99-00
Reading	30	18	21.4	16	17	18.0	44	50	50
Language	27	23	19.7	24	22	26.7	48	51	55
Math	34	28	27.7	12	17	17.7	40	44	44
Science	28	13	21.2	21	23	22.2	47	56	52

District-wide, fourth grade scores on the TerraNova test for reading remained constant over the previous year at an average percentile rank of 50. In the language test, fourth graders improved from an average percentile rank of 48 in 1997, to 51 in 1998, to 55 average percentile rank 1999. While the math scores for fourth graders remained below the national average, they did show improvement over the 1997 testing of an average percentile rank of 40. The average scores in 1998 and 1999 were at the 44th percentile. District TerraNova science test performance was reported at the 47th percentile rank in 1997, improved to the 56th in 1998, and dropped slightly the 52nd percentile in 1999.

In 1997, more than 40% of fourth graders at Jackpot, Owyhee, Southside, and West Wendover elementary schools were in the bottom quarter of national norms on the TerraNova reading exam in 1997. In 1998, scores improved so that only West Wendover had more than 40% of its fourth graders in the bottom quarter on the TerraNova reading test. In the fall of 1999, West Wendover's reading scores improved to have 32% in the bottom quarter, but the percentages in the bottom quarter were 42% at Owyhee, and 38% at Southside. In the area of language arts, fourth graders at Jackpot improved, reducing the percentage in the lowest quarter from 70% in 1997 to only 38% in 1999. Thirty-two percent of West Wendover fourth graders' language scores fell in the bottom quarter in 1999, an improvement over the previous two years. On the fourth grade TerraNova math test, high percentages of students scoring in the bottom quarter included 42% at Carlin, 53% at Owyhee, and 41% at Southside. Fourth graders in 10 out of 11 elementary schools scored below the national average percentile rank; in contrast, math achievement at Mountain View Elementary School was at the 62nd percentile. On the TerraNova science test, 46% of Jackpot fourth graders and 42% of those at Owyhee scored in the bottom quarter.

State Mandated Test Results: TerraNova:

**Eighth Grade
Terra Nova Results**

SUBJECT	% BOTTOM QUARTER			% TOP QUARTER			AVERAGE PERCENTILE RANK		
	97-98	98-99	99-00	97-98	98-99	99-00	97-98	98-99	99-00
Reading	29	20	25.0	23	24	23.7	46	53	49
Language	31	25	25.8	18	23	19.9	44	49	48
Math	33	25	29.1	16	25	16.1	42	51	43
Science	27	15	24.9	23	25	23.1	49	57	51

The eighth grade TerraNova achievement tests showed relatively consistent results over a three-year period. In 1997, the average percentile rank in reading was 46. This improved to the 53rd percentile in 1998 and dipped to the 49th percentile in 1999. District-wide eighth grade language test scores were an average percentile rank of 44 in 1997, 49 in 1998, and 48 in 1999. The district-wide average math scores for eighth graders on the TerraNova fell from the 51st percentile in 1998 to the 43rd percentile in 1999. Science scores for eighth graders averaged at the 49th percentile in the 1997 testing, the 57th in the 1998 testing, and the 51st percentile in 1999.

The eighth grade TerraNova reading results indicated that 41% of Owyhee students and 54% of West Wendover students scored in the bottom quarter. In average percentile ranks for the seven eighth grade programs, only Owyhee showed higher scores in 1999, improving from the 36th percentile in 1998 to the 41st percentile in 1999. The other six programs showed declines in average percentile rank between 1998 and 1999 on the reading test. On the language test for eighth graders, Wendover High School had 54% of its students scoring in the bottom quarter, and only Elko Junior High improved on its average percentile ranking, moving from the 48th in 1998 to the 50th in 1999. Fifty-two percent of West Wendover eighth graders, 47% of those at Owyhee, 38% at Wells High, and 39% at Carlin High scored in the bottom quarter of the

TerraNova eighth grade math test. All seven of the eighth grade programs in the Elko district posted average percentile rank scores in mathematics that were below the national average. On the TerraNova science test, 41% of eighth graders at Owyhee School and 57% of eighth graders at West Wendover were in the bottom quarter.

State Mandated Test Results: TerraNova:

**Tenth Grade
Terra Nova Results**

SUBJECT	% BOTTOM QUARTER			% TOP QUARTER			AVERAGE PERCENTILE RANK		
	97-98	98-99	99-00	97-98	98-99	99-00	97-98	98-99	99-00
Reading	25	23	32.6	26	26	23.0	53	53	46
Language	25	18	27.5	29	27	23.0	53	55	49
Math	27	25	33.2	24	24	23.4	50	51	46
Science	20	8	23.7	28	28	26.2	55	61	51

The achievement of Elko County tenth graders was near national averages in each of the three years reported, with only modest variations. District wide, tenth grade performance on the TerraNova reading test in 1999 was lower than it had been in the two previous years, dropping from the 53rd percentile in both 1997 and 1998 to the 46th percentile in 1999. Tenth graders showed a similar modest decline in language achievement, falling from the 55th percentile in 1998 to an average percentile rank of 49th in 1999. District-wide average tenth grade math scores were at the 50th percentile in 1997, the 51st percentile in 1998, and the 46th percentile in 1999. Science scores for tenth graders were at the 55th percentile in the 1997 testing, rose to the 61st percentile in 1998, and dropped back to the 51st percentile in 1999.

By school, on the reading test, 54% of Jackpot High School tenth graders and 52% of those at West Wendover scored in the bottom quarter. On the language test for tenth graders, there were no schools with 40 or more percent scoring in the bottom quarter. The tenth grade math test results showed 48% of West Wendover students and 83% of Owyhee High students were in the bottom quarter. Spring Creek High made notable gains in math from an average percentile rank of 59 in the 1998 testing to an average percentile rank of 67 for 1999. Scores in tenth grade math also improved at Wells High School rising the 54th percentile in 1998 to the 68th percentile in 1999. Only West Wendover High School had more than 40% of its students score in the bottom quarter in science with 43%.

State Mandated Test Results: Writing Exam.

Writing Examination

MEASURED TRAIT	PERCENT PROFICIENT					
	4 TH GRADE			8 TH GRADE		
	97-98	98-99	99-00	97-98	98-99	99-00
Ideas	NA	NR	54.5	75.3	75.3	80.4
Organization	NA	NR	52.2	74.3	74.3	78.0
Voice	NA	NR	46.4	71.3	71.3	73.1
Conventions	NA	NR	51.8	66.3	66.3	75.8

On the **fourth grade** writing examination, Elko students scored highest in writing ideas at 54.5%. Their lowest level of proficiency was in writing voice at 46.4%. The **eighth grade** writing exam showed improvements in all four domains over the previous years. Eighth graders scored highest (80.4%) in writing ideas and the lowest area was 73.1% proficiency in writing voice.

State Mandated Test Results: High School Proficiency Exam.

PERCENT PASSING									% DENIED DIPLOMA		
96-97	97-98	98-99	96-97	97-98	98-99	96-97	97-98	98-99	96-97	97-98	98-99
99.7	99.9	100	99.1	97.6	99.4	99.7	100	99.7	NA	NA	1.1

High school seniors in the Elko district demonstrated 100% proficiency in reading, 99.4% in math, and 99.7% in writing. Only 1.1% of seniors were denied a diploma due to examination failure.

ACT/SAT Results.

ACT Results

% SENIORS TAKING SAT			ACT COMPOSITE SCORE		
1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
NR	52	50	21.9	18.7	21.3

SAT Results

% SENIORS TAKING SAT			SAT VERBAL AVERAGE			SAT MATH AVERAGE		
96-97	97-98	98-99	96-97	97-98	98-99	96-97	97-98	98-99
NR	9.0	8.0	496	524	554	500	518	551

The Elko School District had 50% of its seniors taking the ACT exam and scoring a composite average of 21.3. That is an improvement over the previous year's average of 18.7. Only 8% of the seniors took the SAT exam where the verbal average improved from 524 to 554 and the math average improved from 518 to 551.

Special Programs

In special programs, the Elko County School District has 9.4% participation in special education, 5.4% participation in English as a Second Language (ESL), 1.6% participation in gifted and talented, and 25% participation in the free- and reduced-price meal program. All of the elementary age students participated in computer, art, music, and physical education programs. Individual school rates of special education participation ranged from a high of 21% at Jackpot Combined School to a low of 6.4% at Spring Creek High School. The highest concentration of ESL students was found at Southside Elementary with a participation rate of

20.2% and West Wendover Combined School with a concentration of 21%. Some schools had higher rates of participation in the free- and reduced-price meal program: Owyhee Combined School had 80% of its students eligible, Jackpot Combined School had a 69% rate, and West Wendover Combined School, a 54% rate.

Secondary art programs had a 35.8% participation rate and secondary music programs a 25.3% participation rate district-wide. Enrollment in foreign language classes included 27.6% of students and occupational education had a 69.8% participation rate among secondary students. Forty-one point six percent of secondary students participated in athletics. The Elko County School District did not provide migrant education, after school care, advanced placement, or student parenting programs.

Teachers

Of Elko County teachers 75% had earned bachelor's degrees and 25%, master's degrees. More than 99 percent of teachers were teaching within their areas of licensure. Teachers with ten or more years of experience accounted for 45% of faculty and only 2% were new in 1998-99.

Technology/Computers

The district reported that 100% of students had Internet access in a school library or in a computer lab. Fifty-nine percent of students had Internet access within classrooms and the average ratio of students to computers was 8.2:1, with a range from 4:1 to 15:1 district-wide. This ratio was significantly improved over the previous year.

Remedial College Courses (UCCSN Class Enrollments)

The Elko County School District reported that 14.1% of their recent graduates enrolled in remedial courses.

Expenditures

District-wide per-pupil expenditures for the Elko School District were \$6,159. Of that amount, \$4,883 was in the area of instructional expenses. In 1998-99, the Elko School District received \$434,646 for Title I remedial education funds and \$150,000 for state remediation funds for low performing schools. Other remediation funds received during the 1998-99 were \$91,596.

Parental Involvement.

Parents or guardians participating in parent/teacher conferences, district-wide, increased from 66% in 1997-98 to 72% in 1998-99.

- 2. Areas the School Districts' Part III Report identified as examples of exemplary achievement at the school site and/or areas of improvement in outcomes from those reported in the previous year and evidence that the areas were exemplary or improved.*

Elko County School District continued to use a matrix system designed to specifically tie exemplary achievement or improvement at each school site to assessment data, and areas in need

of improvement to evidence of deficiency and plans to impact those areas. Exemplary areas and model programs ranged from increases in TerraNova test scores to such programs as kindergarten skills assessment, Early Prevention of School Failure program, Success For All Reading, school within a school program, Discovery Programs, intensive phonics, curriculum mapping, Signature Reading Series, Everyday Mathematics, and STEM program. The broad range of successful program strategies is indeed varied.

3. *Areas the School Districts' Part III Report identified as in need of improvement at the school site(s) and evidence for any deficiencies addressed.*

Again the matrix format of the Elko County report provides specific detail for each individual school and areas in need of improvement. Deficiencies noted for improvement are generally related to the TerraNova testing or other state mandated programs.

4. *Summary of the School Districts' plan for improvement at the school site.*

District-wide, a system has been developed through a district developed criterion reference test to provide a better method of assessing academic progress for first graders. This assessment was implemented successfully in the 1999-2000 year. The district has continued efforts to improve the quality of instruction by providing inservice activities according to the needs of the teaching staff and administration. Training was offered in 20 discrete areas for teachers during the school year. Concern over writing proficiency tests has resulted in consistent teacher training in that area. Teaching of phonics and social studies have also resulted in other inservice opportunities. "Off grade" testing allows the district to determine both progress from the previous year and to pin point steps in the remediation process prior to the state mandated testing year. Individual plans of improvement are provided by school in the structure matrix that reports specific site level progress.

5. *Sources of information to be used in determining effectiveness of the plan for improvement.*

The instructional improvement plans in the Elko County School District are tied directly to TerraNova test scores and state mandated proficiency exams. Locally constructed criterion reference exams are beginning to be used to augment the accountability process. In the future, these district-wide efforts should generate significant instructional assessment information to facilitate the continued improvement of student achievement.

6. *Missing or incomplete data.*

None were found except but the copy of the district report had the results for Spring Creek High School 10th grade offset by one line. This has the potential to be very misleading.

7. *Recommendations of Panel members for improving analysis and use of accountability findings at the school level and, if applicable, at the district level.*

The Elko School District demonstrates a consistent and varied effort at inservice training for their teachers. They should be commended on their pilot class size reduction plan and the initiation of criterion reference exams within the district. Their report illustrates how accountability findings directly support improvement projects throughout the district. The only

recommendation is:

1. That the district consider preparing individual building Part I accountability reports. The district report had all required information but most districts produce a “stand alone report.” School by school reports have been valuable in the past and provided a richness of information that was missed in this year’s submission.