

Lincoln County School District Accountability Analysis

The Lincoln County School District Report was complete. There is clear evidence that this district utilizes accountability data for school improvement. There are some inconsistencies in school names. Suggestions are provided for future report preparation, which will assist the district in complying with state and federal accountability requirements.

1. Summary of the student performance and school characteristics deemed relevant to 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 Lincoln County School District experienced an enrollment decline of 3.3% moving from 1,052 students in the previous year to 1,017 for the 1999-2000 school year.

Student Attendance Rate.

The attendance rate improved by 1% over the previous year to 95% for the current school year.

Teacher Attendance Rate.

The teacher attendance rate in Lincoln County remained at 95%, the same as in the previous year.

Dropout and Non-Promotion Rates.

The district's report listed an overall dropout rate of .4%. District-wide, non-promotion rates were 7% in kindergarten, 2% in first, third, fifth, and sixth grades, 3% at fourth and eighth grades, 1% at seventh grade, and none at second grade. Pahrnagat Valley Middle School reported 9% of their students retained in eighth grade. Twenty-three percent of kindergartners were retained at Caliente, as were 9% of fourth graders. At Alamo Elementary School, 9% of first graders were retained. All ninth graders accumulated enough credits to be promoted to tenth grade.

High School completion Indicators

Regular diplomas were awarded to 96% of the seniors. Adjusted diplomas were earned by 1.3%, and certificates of attendance were awarded to 2.6% of the district's seniors.

Transiency Rate.

The transiency rate in the district was reported at 10%. Caliente Elementary School had the highest transiency rate at 18%, and Pioche had the lowest rate, 10%. The district-wide rate declined significantly over the previous year when it was 18%.

Student/Teacher Ratios

At the elementary level, student-to-teacher ratios ranged from 13:1 to 18.5:1, with the largest ratios at the fourth grade level. For middle schools the ratios varied from 14:1 to 17:1. High school ratios were reported at 18:1 for English and science and 12:1 for math and social studies. The state data tables combined middle schools with high schools, and the average secondary class sizes were 16.6 in English, 13 in math, 17.5 in science and 14.5 in social studies.

Student/Counselor Ratios.

The student-to-counselor ratio in Lincoln County increased from 406:1, the previous year, to 533:1 for 1999-2000.

Suspension/Expulsion rate.

At the elementary level, the Lincoln County School District had only seven suspensions or expulsions for violence to other students, all at Pahrnagat Valley Elementary School. One suspension or expulsion at the elementary level resulted from threats or extortion. At the secondary level, incidents of suspension and expulsion were stable with the exception of Pahrnagat Valley Middle School where there was an increase from four incidents of violence to students to 13 for the current year. District-wide, at the secondary level, only 15 students were suspended or expelled for violence to other students, two for drug possession, and one for weapon possession.

Numbers of Habitual Disciplinary Students.

The Lincoln County School District expelled no students for habitual disciplinary problems.

State Mandated Test Results: TerraNova, Fourth grade.

**TerraNova Results
4th Grade**

SUBJECT	% BOTTOM QUARTER			% TOP QUARTER			AVERAGE PERCENTILE RANK		
	98-99	99-00	00-01	98-99	99-00	00-01	98-99	99-00	00-01
Reading	16	12.3	23.2	16	20.0	21.4	52	54	49
Language	32	12.1	21.4	11	27.3	16.1	40	59	45
Math	23	10.8	22.2	20	27.7	22.2	49	63	52
Science	19	10.8	18.5	17	29.2	27.8	54	62	53

The test scores for the fall 2000 fourth grade in Lincoln County School District were somewhat lower than those of the previous year's fourth graders. Year-to-year variation is typical when enrollments are small. In Lincoln County, there was a total of only three schools that had enough students to report school level scores. The fourth elementary school (Pioche) had only seven fourth graders. The percentage of eligible students tested ranged from 94.7 to 100. On the reading test, last year's (1990-2000) fourth grade scored an average percentile rank of 54 compared to 49 for the current year. The language score in the previous year (1999-2000) was at average a percentile rank of 59 compared to the current year score is year's rank of 45. In 1999-2000 the average percentile rank in math was 63 compared to this year's average percentile rank of 52. Science also dropped from an average percentile rank of 62 in 1999-2000 to an average percentile rank of 57 in the current year. The average Lincoln County fourth grade score were higher than the state average in science.

State Mandated Test Results: TerraNova, Eighth Grade

**TerraNova Results
8th Grade**

SUBJECT	% BOTTOM QUARTER			% TOP QUARTER			AVERAGE PERCENTILE RANK		
	98-99	99-00	00-01	98-99	99-00	00-01	98-99	99-00	00-01
Reading	28	18.2	35.3	16	32.7	20.6	44	61	39
Language	29	20.0	38.2	16	34.5	25.0	40	66	42
Math	38	14.5	38.8	17	41.8	25.4	38	66	44
Science	17	7.3	26.5	15	47.3	23.5	50	69	51

The district wide eighth grade test scores for Lincoln County were also lower than the scores of the previous year's (1999-2000) eighth graders. As in fourth grade, eighth grade enrollment was relatively small, making year-to-year variations not unexpected. One hundred percent of the eligible students were tested. The average percentile rank in

reading went from 61 in the fall of 1999 to 39 in the fall 2000 testing. The language test went from 66 in average percentile rank to 42. Similarly, math scores dropped from average percentile rank of 66 to 44. The average percentile rank of science in the previous year was 69 compared with this year's group scoring 51 in average percentile rank. Only in science did the Lincoln County eighth graders surpass the state average. On fall 2000 tests, more than 35% of students scored in the bottom quarter on national norms on the math, language, and reading tests.

State Mandated Test Results: TerraNova, Tenth Grade

**TerraNova Results
10th Grade**

SUBJECT	% BOTTOM QUARTER			% TOP QUARTER			AVERAGE PERCENTILE RANK		
	98-99	99-00	00-01	98-99	99-00	00-01	98-99	99-00	00-01
Reading	9	17.2	13.0	47	21.9	29.6	69	57	55
Language	7	17.2	18.5	32	14.1	18.5	62	51	52
Math	16	25.0	16.7	23	35.9	24.1	56	54	56
Science	7	10.9	14.0	42	31.3	22.8	69	65	56

A comparison of tenth grade test results in the fall of 2000 with those in the fall of 1999 showed lower scores in reading and science and higher scores on the tests for language and math. The total tenth grade enrollment at the time of testing was 60. The average percentile rank of the previous year's group in reading was 57 compared to this year's rank of 55, while the average percentile rank for the previous year's score in science was 65 compared to this year's rank of 56. The average percentile rank of 52 for this year's score in language was up slightly when compared to last year's average percentile rank of 51. The average percentile rank of 56 in the mathematics test also increased slightly over the previous year's average percentile rank of 54. The average percentile ranks for Lincoln County High School and Pahranaagat High School were similar with each school scoring slightly higher on two of the four tests. Only 92% of eligible students took the exam at Lincoln County High School compared with 100% at Pahranaagat Valley High School.

State Mandated Test Results: Writing Exam

**Writing Examination
4th and 8th Grade**

MEASURED TRAIT	PERCENT PROFICIENT					
	4 TH GRADE			8 TH GRADE		
	98-99	99-00	00-01	98-99	99-00	00-01
Ideas	NR	54.0	57.7	NR	79.0	78.0
Organization	NR	57.0	53.8	NR	75.0	75.0
Voice	NR	56.0	53.8	NR	65.0	58.0
Conventions	NR	59.0	59.6	NR	62.0	62.0

The percentage of fourth grade students in Lincoln County demonstrating writing proficiency improved in two of the four traits assessed on the examination. Proficiency in Ideas increased from 54.0% to 57.7%. Proficiency in Conventions improved from 59% in the for the previous year to 59.6% in 1999-2000. The current year's fourth graders were slightly less proficient than those in the year before in traits of Organization and Voice. The 40.4% of Lincoln County fourth graders proficient in all traits was higher than the state average of 33.1%

On the eighth grade writing proficiency test, this current year's (2000-2001) students were fairly consistent with those of the prior year. In the measured trait of Ideas, the previous year's percent proficient was 79% compared to this year's 78% in 1999-2000. In Organization 75% of the students were proficient, the same as the previous year. In the area of Voice, the percent proficiency dropped slightly from 65% for the previous year to 58%. In the trait of Conventions, the percent proficiency remained constant at 62 for the 8th graders. While 56% of eighth graders across the state demonstrated proficiency on all writing traits tested, 41.5% of those in Lincoln County were proficient in all four traits.

State Mandated Tests Results: High School Proficiency Exam

High School Proficiency Examination

PERCENT PASSING									% DID NOT EARN DIPLOMA		
READING			MATH			WRITING					
97-98	98-99	99-00	97-98	98-99	99-00	97-98	98-99	99-00	97-98	98-99	99-00
100	100	98.7	100	100	97.4	100	100	100	NA	0.0	2.0

Performance of Lincoln County seniors on the state high school proficiency exam in 1999-2000 was slightly lower than in the prior year. While 100% were proficient in all

three areas 1998-1999, 98.7% of the students passed the reading exam and in math, 97.4% passed the math exam in 1999-2000. Two percent were denied a diploma as a result of not passing the High School Proficiency Examination .

ACT/SAT Results.

ACT Results

% SENIORS TAKING ACT			ACT COMPOSITE SCORE		
97-98	98-99	99-00	97-98	98-99	99-00
63	71	70	21.8	21.5	19.5

The percentage of seniors taking the ACT test remained fairly constant at 70% when compared to the previous year at 71%. The ACT composite score dropped from 21.5 during the previous year to 19.5. However, the relatively small number of graduating seniors supports these figures as a fairly stable score.

SAT Results

% SENIORS TAKING SAT			SAT VERBAL AVERAGE			SAT MATH AVERAGE		
97-98	98-99	99-00	97-98	98-99	99-00	97-98	98-99	99-00
0.0	0.0	0.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

No students graduating from the Lincoln County School District took the SAT examination. Therefore no results were reported.

Special Programs.

At the elementary school level, Pahrnagat Valley Elementary had the highest level of participation in special education at 6%. This was lower than the 13% participation rate in the previous year. Panaca Elementary School and Caliente Elementary School had a special education participation rate of 5%. Pahrnagat Valley Elementary School also had 4% of its students in the English as a Second Language (ESL) program, up from 0% in the previous year. The district reported no elementary students in migrant education or gifted programming.

District-wide, 38% of students participated in the free or reduced-price program, all of these at the elementary schools. The district report showed that 50% of students at Panaca Elementary School, 42% of students at Caliente Elementary School, 32% at Pioche Elementary School, and 25% at Alamo Elementary participated in the program. Charts for special program participation in the district report labeled Pahrnagat Valley Elementary School (located at Alamo, Nevada) as “Alamo Elementary School.” The state data tables listed only 3% free or reduced-price participation at Pahrnagat Valley

Elementary School, significantly different than the 25% participation rate given in the district report. Using different names for the same school may have resulted in entry of inaccurate data. An after school day care program was provided at Caliente Elementary School, where 26% of the students participated.

One hundred percent of the students participated in physical education at all four elementary schools.

At Pahrnagat Valley (Alamo) Elementary School, 100% participated in music and art and 85% in computer education. However, music instruction was provided to only 4% of students at Caliente, 29% at Pioche, and 28% at Panaca. One hundred percent of students at Pioche, Panaca, and Caliente were enrolled in computer education. Art instruction was given to 100% of students at Panaca and Caliente, but art was not offered at Pioche, which had a total enrollment of only 69 students.

At the secondary level, the participation rates in special education ranged from 15% at Pahrnagat Valley Middle School to 4% at Lincoln County High School. No participation was indicated in ESL, migrant education, the gifted program or advanced placement at any secondary school. Participation in the music program at this level varied with Pahrnagat Valley Middle School having 51%, Meadow Valley Middle School 41%, Pahrnagat Valley High School 0% and Lincoln County High School 35%. Participation rates in art education also varied across the four sites from a high of 27% at Pahrnagat Valley Middle School to a low 6% at Pahrnagat Valley High School.

The occupational education program in Lincoln County has a very strong participation rate, with a district average of 88% of the students involved. Individual secondary school participation rates varied from a high of 98% at Meadow Valley Middle School to a low of 47% at Pahrnagat Valley Middle School. Foreign language was provided at three of the four secondary school sites with participation ranging from a high of 19% at Pahrnagat Valley High School to a low of 0% at Pahrnagat Valley Middle School. Athletics involved 64% of the students at Lincoln County High School and 85% of the students at Pahrnagat Valley High School.

Teachers.

In Lincoln County, 55% of the teachers have bachelor's degrees and 45% have graduate degrees. Ninety-seven percent of the teachers were teaching completely within their area of license and endorsement. Only 6% of Lincoln County's teachers were new within the past two years, while 39% have 3 to 10 years experience, 38% have 11 to 20 years experience, and 17% have taught more than 20 years.

Technology/Computers.

The student to computer ratio at Lincoln County Elementary Schools ranged from 2:11 computer for 2 students at Caliente Elementary School to 9:1 at Pioche Elementary School. The district reported Internet access at three of the four elementary sites with

Pahrnagat Valley Elementary School reporting no connection. At secondary school sites, the ratio ranged from 7:1 at Pahrnagat Valley Middle School to 2:1 students at Pahrnagat Valley High School. All four secondary sites had Internet access.

University and Community College System of Nevada (UCCSN) Remedial Class Enrollments

Twenty-one recent graduates of Lincoln County School District were enrolled at Nevada universities and colleges. Of these, 38.1% were enrolled in remedial college courses.

Expenditures.

The per-pupil expenditures in the Lincoln County Schools dropped from \$8,430 per-pupil in the previous year to \$8,044 for 1999-2000. Elementary schools ranged from a high of \$9,555 per-pupil at Pioche Elementary School to a low of \$6,861 at Panaca Elementary School. The secondary schools ranged from a high of \$10,222 per-pupil at Pahrnagat Valley High School to \$7,479 per-pupil at Meadow Valley Middle School. Per-pupil expenditures for instruction averaged \$5,168; for administration, \$1,454; for operations, \$810; for staff support, \$7; and for student support, \$605. For the second consecutive year, Lincoln County expenditures for staff support were, by far, the lowest in the state.

The Lincoln County School District received 81.06% of its operating revenues from the state and 17.44% from local sources. Less than 1% came from the federal government, and 1.49% from the district's opening balance.

Federal remediation funds showed a moderate increase from the prior year – from \$161,454 to \$165,272 in Title I allocation and from \$60,955 to \$70,364 in Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration funds. The school district received no state remediation or other remediation funds.

Parent Involvement.

Parental involvement at the elementary schools was consistently rated high. In secondary schools, Pahrnagat Valley Middle School was rated high with Meadow Valley Middle School, Lincoln County High School and Pahrnagat Valley High School rated as moderate. The building accountability reports provided ample evidence of communication links and continuing efforts to involve parents throughout the district.

2. *Areas the school district's 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.*

Three areas of school site improvement in outcomes were reported in Part III of Lincoln County's report. Caliente Elementary School improved TerraNova scores in reading, language, and math. Pahrnagat Valley Elementary School improved on their reading scores, and their science scores were the highest in the school district. Finally, Lincoln County High School made improvement in language and math scores while holding constant in reading scores. Specific multi-year test score comparisons highlighting the amount of improvement were provided in tabular form for each of the three school sites.

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

The areas in need of improvement identified for the Lincoln County School District at all four elementary schools focused on reducing the percentage of students who score in the lowest quarter of national norms on the TerraNova examination. Pahrnagat Valley Middle School is continuing clinics designed to reduce the percentage of bottom quarter students in reading and math and the high schools are making scheduling and program changes to address the instructional needs of their students. The district has focused on the areas of reading and math and will select language achievement for the next area of emphasis. The evidence of deficiencies were presented in a tabular review of scores, highlighting the percentage of students scoring in the bottom quarter.

4. *Summary of the school district's plans for improvement at the school site level.*

Part III of Lincoln County's report provided a detailed description of the district's plans to correct the deficiencies identified in the accountability process. The plans include continuing regular leadership development to provide better academic achievement programs and practices. Elementary schools are arranging extra teacher and teacher aide time for students scoring in the lowest quarter. The Accelerated Math program is being implemented at all four elementary programs along with the Accelerated Reader program. Meadow Valley and Pahrnagat Valley Middle Schools have also provided remediation time and extra help in their schedules. The high schools are arranging one-to-one assistance for low scoring students and have established a night school for homework help and a recharge program for students who are unsuccessful in various classes. Summer skill building and remediation classes have also been scheduled. The district has established a goal of 75% in average percentile rank in all areas of the TerraNova test. They are supporting this by providing teacher in-service in "learning to learn" and "understanding by design". Additionally they are focusing their in-service activities in two primary areas: first, research based teaching strategies to increase student performance, and second, school site based technology needs. District-

wide and building site plans were clearly well conceived and appropriate.

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

The Lincoln County School District plans were clearly tied to assessment data provided by the testing program. Each building level report and the district report was directly tied to the analysis of state testing results.

6. *Missing or incorrect data/section required information.*

The Lincoln County School district report was comprehensive and clearly in compliance with the state's accountability program.

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

A school district the size of Lincoln County should be commended for its efforts and implementation of the accountability process. There is significant evidence in the district-wide report and each of the building reports that student performance data are being analyzed and incorporated into the instructional objectives of the district and its schools.

The only specific recommendation the reviewers offer deals with a technical issue namely the use of the two names for the same elementary school – Alamo and Pahrnagat Valley Elementary. District charts showed Alamo and the state data tables showed Pahrnagat Valley Elementary. This difference is perhaps well founded in the district's effort to communicate more specific information to the local stakeholders. However, the variation makes it difficult to manage analysis between the two documents. Choosing one name and using it consistently would be helpful.

The second major recommendation focuses on the broader issue of completeness of this accountability report in that some information such as the high percentage of recent graduates who were enrolled in remedial courses in the UCCSN is not addressed. This issue clearly should be addressed in Part III of the report.