

## **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. Several suggestions are offered for making for report more reader friendly and for complying with new federal law.

### ***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 in LeBEAPE in Part I School Reports and Part II District-Wide Reports.***

#### **Number of Pupils.**

The enrollment in the Elko County Schools declined 2.7% from the previous year to 10,161 students. It is noteworthy that Mountain View Elementary, Sage Elementary, Elko Grammar, and Southside Elementary schools all had enrollment declines in excess of 6%. Spring Creek High School had an enrollment decline of 6%. The loss of enrollment was heavier at the outlying schools. Jackpot Combined School lost 28% of its enrollment, and Owyhee Combined and Wells High School dropped enrollment by 7.95 % and 9.7% respectively.

#### **Student Attendance Rate.**

The average student attendance rate across the district was 94%. Owyhee Combined School reported the lowest attendance rate of 90%.

#### **Teacher Attendance Rate.**

The teacher attendance rate in the Elko County Schools was 94.83% district-wide. The highest teacher attendance rate – 96.6% – was at West Wendover High School, and the lowest – 90.7% – was at Owyhee Combined Schools.

#### **Dropout/Non-promotion Rates.**

The district-wide dropout rate was 4.1%, slightly lower than in the prior year. For the elementary level, the retention rate of students was 2.4% in kindergarten, 6.6% in first grade, 1.9% in second grade, 1.5% in third grade and 1.3% in grades four and five. In sixth grade 1.6% of students were retained, in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, 8%, and in eighth grade 7.3%. Six and a half percent of ninth grade students had not accumulated enough credits to be considered tenth graders at the beginning of the next school year. The highest rates of non-promotion occurred at Jackpot where 17% were retained in seventh grade and 16% were retained at eighth grade. West Wendover School reported a 14% retention rate for seventh grade and 13.93% of the West Wendover ninth graders were credit deficient. The highest dropout rate – 10.4% – occurred at West Wendover.

## **School Completion Indices**

Ninety-four percent of the Elko School District's seniors received standard diplomas, 4% adjusted diplomas, and 2% of the seniors received a certificate of attendance.

## **Transiency Rate.**

District-wide, the Elko School District's transiency rate remained constant at 22%. The transiency rate was highest, 31%, at West Wendover Schools, Jackpot Combined Schools, and at Carlin Combined Schools.

## **Student/Teacher Ratios.**

The Elko County School District initiated a pilot class size reduction program adopted by the 1999 Legislature with a target of a ratio of pupils to teachers of 22:1, with one teacher in a classroom in grades 1 through 6. District-wide averages for 1999-2000 were reported as follows: kindergarten 17:1, first grade 18:1, second grade 17:1, third 19:1, fourth grade 22:1, fifth grade 23:1, and sixth grade 17:1. The highest reported class sizes were 30:1 in sixth grade at Northside Elementary and 29:1 at fifth grade at Spring Creek Elementary and Wells Combined School. Grade level averages for middle, high school and combined schools, by subject areas ranged from 17 to 24 in English, 12 to 24 in science, 14 to 24 in mathematics, and 16 to 24 in social studies.

## **Student/Counselor Ratio.**

The student/counselor ratio for Elko County School District was 583:1, up from 454:1 for the previous year.

## **Suspension/Expulsion rate.**

District-wide suspensions or expulsions resulted from 213 cases of violence to students and 46 cases of possession of alcohol. Both rates were down moderately over the previous year. West Wendover Combined School had the most cases of violence to students with 55. Other expulsions or suspensions, district-wide, included eight for violence to staff, six for possession of weapons, 46 for possession of alcohol, 23 for possession of controlled substances, four for distribution of controlled substances, and 26 for threats or extortion. The highest numbers of suspensions/expulsions incidents for possession of alcohol were 17 at Elko High and 13 at Elko Junior High School.

## **Numbers of Habitual Disciplinary Problem Students.**

The district reported that 26 students were expelled as habitual disciplinary problems. The state data tables appeared to count the same seven students at Owyhee Combined Schools on both the elementary and secondary tables.

**State Mandated Test Results: TerraNova, Fourth Grade.**

**TerraNova Results  
4<sup>th</sup> 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
<b>Reading</b>	18	21.4	19.5	17	18.0	20.3	50	50	52
<b>Language</b>	23	19.7	18.8	22	26.7	28.2	51	55	55
<b>Math</b>	28	27.7	22.8	17	17.7	19.1	44	44	49
<b>Science</b>	13	21.2	18.9	23	22.2	22.6	56	52	53

Fourth graders, district-wide, in the Elko County Schools improved moderately over the previous year. Reading scores went from an average percentile rank of 50 to the 52<sup>nd</sup> percentile. Language scores remained constant at an average percentile rank of 55. Math scores improved for this fourth grade group to the 49<sup>th</sup> percentile rank over the previous year's group who scored at the 44<sup>th</sup> percentile. The science scores went from an average percentile rank of 52 in the previous year to 53. The district reported an average percentile rank of 50 in mathematics while the state data tables indicated an average percentile rank of 49. This may be a rounding issue.

Students at Owyhee Elementary School scored an average percentile rank of 31 on the reading test with 47.4% scoring in the bottom quarter. While this group's average percentile rank increased slightly over the previous year, there were more students scoring in the bottom quarter. In the language test, Jackpot Elementary School had 41.7% of the fourth graders score in the bottom quarter. This was an increase from the previous year's group who had 38.5% scoring in the bottom quarter of the language test. Both Southside Elementary School and Jackpot Elementary School had more students scoring in the bottom quarter on the mathematics test when compared to the previous year. Southside Elementary had 43.3% score in the bottom quarter and Jackpot Elementary had 45.8% score in the bottom quarter. On the science test, none of the elementary schools had more than 40% of their students scoring in the bottom quarter in the fourth grade. Jackpot Elementary improved from 46.2% in the bottom quarter the previous year to 37.5%, and Owyhee Elementary improved from 42.1% the previous year to 36.8%.

The percentage of eligible fourth graders tested ranged from 97.2 to 100 percent.

**State Mandated Test Results: TerraNova, Eighth Grade.**

**TerraNova Results  
8<sup>th</sup> 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
<b>Reading</b>	20	25.0	22.6	24	23.7	26.6	53	49	53
<b>Language</b>	25	25.8	20.9	23	19.9	24.6	49	48	52
<b>Math</b>	25	29.1	22.7	25	16.1	21.5	51	43	50
<b>Science</b>	15	24.9	19.5	25	23.1	29.1	57	51	56

This year's eighth grade group posted a moderate improvement over last year's group on the national percentile rank scores for the test. District-wide, the average percentile rank for reading was 53<sup>rd</sup>, improving from 49<sup>th</sup> the previous year. The average percentile rank in language increased went from 48 to 52. In math, last year's average percentile rank of 43 improved to 50. And finally, in science, the district-wide average percentile rank the previous year was 51, compared with this year's average percentile rank of 56. The district reported different average percentile ranks from those in the state data tables, in both reading and science. State data tables showed the average reading percentile rank for Elko eighth graders as 53, while the district listed it as 54. State tables showed the average science percentile rank as 56, while the district listed it as 57. These slight differences may have been a result of rounding.

On the eighth-grade reading test, three schools had 40% or more of their students score in the bottom quarter. Jackpot High School went from 36.4% in the bottom quarter for the previous year to 40%. Owyhee High School went from 41.2% for the previous year to 57.9%, and West Wendover High School reduced the percent in the bottom quarter by moving from 54.1% in the previous year to 43.5% in the bottom quarter. On the language test, none of the schools had 40% or more students score in the bottom quarter. West Wendover School posted a significant improvement by increasing its national percentile rank on the language test from the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile to the 40<sup>th</sup> percentile in the fall 2000 testing. This improvement included reducing the percentage of students in the bottom quarter from 54.1% for the previous year to 30.2% in the current year. On the math test, 57.9% of the eighth graders at Owyhee High School scored in the bottom quarter. The previous year Owyhee had fewer students (47.1%) in the bottom quarter. West Wendover eighth graders demonstrated higher scores than the previous year by improving the national percentile rank on the math test from the 23<sup>rd</sup> percentile to the 34<sup>th</sup> percentile and reducing the number of students scoring in the bottom quarter from 52% to 20.9%. On the eighth grade science test, Owyhee High School students scored at the 23<sup>rd</sup> percentile rank, compared with the previous year's 36. Of these eighth-graders, 57.9% scored in the bottom quarter on this test. At Wells Combined Schools, 42% of the eighth graders scored in the bottom quarter of the science test compared with last year's group of which 17.1% were in the bottom quarter. Last year's eighth grade group at West

Wendover Combined Schools had 57.3% scoring in the bottom quarter compared with this year's 16.3%. They also improved their average national percentile rank on the science test from 22 to 34.

The percentage of eligible students tested ranged from 95 to 100 percent.

**State Mandated Test Results: TerraNova, Tenth Grade.**

**TerraNova Results  
10<sup>th</sup> 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
<b>Reading</b>	23	32.6	19.5	26	23.0	25.6	53	46	56
<b>Language</b>	18	27.5	14.3	27	23.0	30.9	55	49	60
<b>Math</b>	25	33.2	18.6	24	23.4	28.7	51	46	57
<b>Science</b>	8	23.7	16.0	28	26.2	32.0	61	51	59

District-wide the tenth grade test results also improved. Reading scores went from the previous year's average at the 46<sup>th</sup> percentile to 56<sup>th</sup> percentile. Language improved from an average percentile rank of 49 to 60. Math and science improved in their average percentile rank from 46<sup>th</sup> to 57<sup>th</sup> and 51<sup>st</sup> to 59<sup>th</sup>, respectively. The district table reported an average percentile rank of 57<sup>th</sup> in reading and 60 in science, which was 1 percentile rank higher than the state generated data table.

On the reading test, none of the secondary schools in Elko County had more than 40% of the tenth graders scoring in the bottom quarter. This year's group at Jackpot High School had only 13.3% score in the bottom quarter when compared with last year's group with 53.8 percent. Of the tenth graders at West Wendover only 30.2% scored in the bottom quarter when compared with last year's group of which 52.2% scored in the bottom quarter in reading. On language test, for tenth graders, Jackpot High School reduced the percentage of their tenth graders students scoring in the bottom quarter from 35.7% to 6.7%, Owyhee High reduced this percentage from 33.3% to 19%, and West Wendover reduced the percentages in the bottom quarter from 37.7% to 14%.

In math, this year's tenth grade group at Carlin High scored lower in comparison to last year's group of which 33.3% scored in the bottom quarter. This year's group had 42.9% scoring in the bottom quarter. Significant improvement was made at Owyhee High School when compared to last year's group of which 83.3% scored in the bottom quarter. This year's group had 38.1% in the bottom quarter. Tenth graders at West Wendover also improved significantly when compared to last year's group with 47.8% in the bottom quarter. This year's group had only 18.6% in the bottom quarter.

On this year's science exam for tenth graders, Jackpot High School had 40% scoring in the bottom quarter, up from the prior year of 30.8%. At Owyhee High School,

42.9% scored in the bottom quarter up from the prior year of 36.7%. West Wendover improved their science scores by dropping their percentage scoring in the bottom quarter from 43.5% to 38.6

The percentage of eligible tenth graders tested ranged from 94.7 to 100 percent.

**State Mandated Test Results: Writing Exam.**

**Writing Examination  
4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

MEASURED TRAIT	PERCENT PROFICIENT					
	4 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE			8 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE		
	98-99	99-00	00-01	98-99	99-00	00-01
<b>Ideas</b>	NR	54.5	53.8	75.3	80.4	77.7
<b>Organization</b>	NR	52.2	53.2	74.3	78.0	75.7
<b>Voice</b>	NR	46.4	45.3	71.3	73.1	65.3
<b>Conventions</b>	NR	51.8	56.0	66.3	75.8	73.5

Fourth graders in the Elko County School District improved their proficiency percentages in two of the four measuring traits on the writing examination. The percent proficient went from 52.2% to 53.2% for Organization and from 51.8% to 56% for Conventions. Proficiency on the trait of Ideas was demonstrated by 53.8% and on the trait of Voice by 45.3%. District-wide, 33.1% were proficient on all writing traits measured, exactly the same as the statewide average percentage. The proficiency rates in the district ranged from 0% of fourth graders proficient in all four areas at the Owyhee Combined School, to 43.5% proficient in all areas at Spring Creek Elementary.

On the eighth grade proficiency test, the percent of proficiency declined in all four traits. Percent proficiency for Ideas went from 80.4% to 77.7%, for Organization from 78% to 75.7%, for Voice from 73.1% to 65.3%, and for Conventions from 75.8% to 73.5%. District-wide, 56% of eighth graders were proficient in all four traits. As was true in fourth grade, this percent proficient on all four traits was exactly the same as the state average. The highest level of proficiency was reported at Spring Creek Middle at 71.7% in all four areas and the lowest was at Owyhee Combined with 40% of the eighth graders being proficient in all four traits.

**State Mandated Test 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
99.9	100	99.8	97.6	99.4	98.5	100	99.7	100	NA	1.1	2.0

District-wide, 99.8% of twelfth graders passed the reading proficiency exam, 98.5% passed the math proficiency exam, and 100% passed the writing proficiency exam. Two percent of seniors were denied a diploma due to examination failure.

**ACT/SAT Results.**

**ACT Results**

% SENIORS TAKING ACT			ACT COMPOSITE SCORE		
97-98	98-99	99-00	97-98	98-99	99-00
52	50	12	18.7	21.3	20.7

The percentages of seniors taking the ACT or SAT exam declined in the Elko County School District. According to state data tables, 50% of the seniors took the ACT exam in the previous year, but only 33% took the ACT during 1999-2000. The district report showed only 3.3% taking the ACT in 1999-2000. Statewide the average participation rate on the ACT was 40.2%. The average ACT score in Elko County was 20.7, in comparison with a statewide average of 21.5.

**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
9.0	8.0	2.5	524	554	554	518	551	556

The reported percentage of seniors taking the SAT dropped from 8% the previous year to .7% in 1999-2000. Statewide 34% of seniors took the SAT. Elko seniors taking the SAT scored, on the average, 554 on verbal skills and 556 on math skills.

## **Special Programs.**

In special programs, Elko County reported 10.34% participation in special education. The highest rate of participation – 20% – was at Jackpot Combined Schools and the lowest rate of participation was at Elko High School with 7%. Six percent of the students participate in English as a Second Language, district-wide. Higher enrollments in ESL were reported at West Wendover Elementary with 28%, Southside with 27%, and Jackpot Combined with 26%. Free or reduced-price meals were provided to 26% of the students across the district. Schools with over 50% of their students in this program were Southside Elementary, West Wendover Elementary, West Wendover High School, Jackpot Combined School, and Owyhee Combined School. All elementary students participated in computer education, art, music, and physical education classes.

Participation by secondary students in art at the various schools ranged from 25% to 48.7%, with the district-wide secondary participation at 35%. Participation by secondary students in music ranged from 18% to 55% with the exception of Carlin Combined School, where participation in music was less than 1%. District-wide, secondary music enrollment was 29%. Athletic participation at the secondary level averaged 49% and varied from 21% at Spring Creek Middle School to 83% at Carlin Combined School. District-wide, 73% of the students participated in occupational education, and 24% of the students participated in foreign language classes. The highest enrollments in foreign language classes were at Spring Creek Middle and High Schools and at Elko High School. Jackpot Combined School was the only secondary site where no students participated in foreign language.

The Elko School District did not provide migrant education, after school care, student parenting programs, or advanced placement classes.

## **Teachers.**

Seventy percent of Elko County School District teachers have bachelor's degrees and 30% have master's degrees. Eleven percent of the teachers were new or had less than three years of experience, while 46% had from 3 to 10 years of experience. Forty-three percent had 11 or more years of experience. Among the faculty, 99.2% taught within their area of licensure. West Wendover High School had 3.3% of classes taught by teachers outside of licensure in science. Owyhee Combined Schools had 7.7% of classes taught outside of the area of licensure in mathematics and 25% in science. The state data table reported 1.2% of math classes taught out of license, while the district's accountability report listed .5.9% district wide, with Owyhee at 7.7% and all other schools at 0.0%.

## **Technology/Computers.**

The district-wide ratio of students to computers is 8.2 to 1. One hundred percent of the students have access to Internet in the library. Access to the Internet is provided to 59% of the students in the classroom. Ratios for full access remain consistent with the



previous year's reporting.

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

Of the 195 recent Elko County graduates attending Nevada universities and community colleges, 78 or 40% were enrolled in remedial courses.

### **Expenditures.**

Revenue for the Elko County Schools came from the following sources: 46% local, 50% state, 2% federal, and 2% other sources. The per-pupil expenditure was \$5,203 for 1999-2000. This was a significant reduction from the previous year's per-pupil expenditure of \$6,159. Jackpot Combined Schools had the highest per-pupil expenditure rate at \$8,800 and the lowest per-pupil expenditure of \$5,078 was found at Spring Creek Elementary School.

The Elko School District received \$434,646 in Title I remedial education funds, as well as \$81,831 for Title IX Indian education. The state provided \$186,060 in low performing school funds and \$48,779 in before/after/summer school funds. Additionally, the school district received \$84,831 of other remediation funds.

### **Parental Involvement.**

Involvement by parents or guardians is reported as high in the Elko County School District. The building level reports indicated a significant and substantial emphasis on communication efforts with the local stakeholders and parents

- 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. Evidence used to support the district's observation of exemplary performance.***

The schools in Elko County continued to use a table format for each school designed to specifically tie exemplary achievement or improvement at each school to assessment data. Areas in need of improvement were also tied to evidence of deficiency and plans to improve on those areas. Improvements in outcomes and model programs ranged from school and grade specific test scores to programs such as Companion Reading, Excel Math, Nevada Reading Week, Visitor Author Program, Fine Arts Week, Academic Portfolios, individual tutoring, A+ Learning System, Accelerated Reader, computer assisted remediation, Success for All, SAR Program, CCC Program, All the Way to Success, Signature Reading Series, intensive phonics, Units by Design, extended day program, TRIBES activities, Math Plus, High Reach Integrated Learning System and more. The broad range of successful program strategies varied with the specific need of each school.

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

The table utilized by each school provided specific detail of identified areas of need and required a plan for improvement to be specified. This approach has worked very well for the Elko schools. However, it was noted that Jackpot High, Mountain Valley, Owyhee secondary and West Wendover Elementary (all low performing schools) listed no areas in need of improvement. Several other schools simply named a subject area for needs improvement. All schools are in need of continuous improvement and greater specificity for the above schools would be helpful for their planning.

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

The Elko County School District has implemented assessments through a district-developed criterion referenced test for kindergarten and first grade. Efforts to improve the quality of instruction have been supported by district-wide in-service activities and staff development programs that have been identified by both faculty members and the leadership of the school district. Training opportunities have been made available to teachers in 23 discreet areas during this school year. The district has implemented a sixth grade writing school assessment program that is formatted and scored in the manner similar to the state assessment at grades four and eight. Efforts to integrate computers as an integral part of the instructional model in the classroom continue. The district has provided support in software training, along with more traditional instructional in-service activities.

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

The instructional improvement plans in the Elko County School District rely heavily on state mandated test scores and proficiency exams. In addition, locally developed criterion reference tests are being employed to supplement the statewide assessment program.

**6. *Missing or incomplete data.***

The information provided was comprehensive and demonstrates complete compliance with the state's accountability program. There were, however, a number of data inconsistencies between the district report and the state data tables.

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

The Elko County School District continues to provide comprehensive assessment data in the preparation of district and building reports for the state accountability program. The incorporation of specific building reports is commendable. Their format and detailed information provides useful and valued information in the assessment

process.

The panel has several recommendations. First, pursue a dialog with state department officials regarding statistical rounding procedures so that minor inconsistencies between the district report and the State Data Tables can be eliminated. Second, request that several schools be more specific in completing their Part III table under columns of “areas in need of improvement” and “evidence of deficiencies.” Third, pay close attention to data in the district report as several errors were noted. Fourth, address other databased indicators be in Parts I and III.

The panel also recommends that issues such as the high remedial class enrollment in the UCCSN and very low participation in the SAT/ACT testing program could/should be addressed. Finally, the Elko county School District should be reporting results of the effectiveness of their exemption to the class-size reduction requirements. Those results would be informative to both policymakers and the public.