

NEVADA READY 21

IGNITING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BY DELIVERING A 21ST CENTURY WORKFORCE

GOAL OF NEVADA READY 21

Nevada Ready 21 ignites economic development in Nevada by delivering a 21st Century workforce, and ensures equity for Nevada's children through personalized access to a connected, 21st Century education.

WHAT IS NEVADA READY 21?

Nevada Ready 21 is part of the Nevada Department of Education's *Nevada Ready!* initiative that raises awareness of the state's public school standards and the expectation of what students should know and be able to do upon graduation. *Nevada Ready 21* transforms K-12 education in Nevada by engaging all students in a personalized, learner-centered education. By purposefully infusing technology into students' daily experience, *Nevada Ready 21* teachers will provide students with a 21st century education that builds a vibrant, diverse economy. Every *Nevada Ready 21* student will have access to the two most important educational opportunities available:

- 1) Skilled educators who value connected, personalized, student-centered learning, and;
- 2) 24/7 access to a personal, portable, technology device connected wirelessly to the Internet.

Every *Nevada Ready 21* educator will have on-demand access to sustained professional development, membership to a network of other innovative, *Nevada Ready 21* teachers, and essential tools for delivering an equitable, engaging, technology-rich educational environment that supports all students' learning and Nevada's economic development.

WHY NEVADA READY 21?

Five critical imperatives drive *Nevada Ready 21*.

1. *Nevada Ready 21* is for **Economic Growth**

To diversify and sustain Nevada's economy, industries demand technologically literate workers with 21st Century competencies. A 2011 study conducted by the Brookings Institution for the Nevada Board of Economic Development identified seven areas of potential economic growth for Nevada that demand technologically literate workers: (1) Tourism, Gaming, and Entertainment; (2) Health and Medical Services; (3) Business IT; (4) Clean Energy; (5) Mining, Materials, and Manufacturing; (6) Logistics and Operations; and (7) Aerospace and Defense. Employment projections for 2020 indicate top jobs will require workers' technological fluency (Moeller, 2012).

Nevada Ready 21 prepares students with technology literacy and key 21st Century competencies such as adaptability, critical thinking, problem solving, collaborating with others, and innovation. By placing technology in the hands of students and preparing teachers to foster learning through inquiry and collaboration, *Nevada Ready 21* will provide students with the diverse skills they need to succeed in Nevada careers. As such, a prepared workforce will induce business growth in Nevada.

2. *Nevada Ready 21* is for **Students**

Equipping students to stay on the cutting edge in a rapidly changing world requires preparing students who can continue their learning beyond K-12 schooling. The Nevada Academic Content Standards emphasize student skills development in the context of content knowledge through a technology-rich environment.

- *Nevada Ready 21* students communicate and collaborate with classmates on classroom assignments and projects and participate in blogs and study sessions during and after school hours.
- *Nevada Ready 21* students are connected and develop skills for navigating and managing their learning.
- *Nevada Ready 21* students will learn how to process information rather than memorize content.
- *Nevada Ready 21* supports all Nevada students equitably with access to learning environments that champion students who actively engage and take ownership of their learning.

3. Nevada Ready 21 is for Schools and Teachers

Educational shifts occur regularly and place high demands on educators. To effectively support transformative teaching and learning, adequate support must be in place to assist educators through this transition.

- Nevada Ready 21 provides high-quality, on-demand online professional learning opportunities to educators in Nevada's urban, rural, and frontier schools.
- Nevada Ready 21 provides teachers the benefit of professional learning that is targeted to their specific needs, at specific points in time. Teachers select courses based upon professional value, learn at their own pace, and communicate with other innovative colleagues.
- Nevada Ready 21 affords the ability to efficiently collect measurements of student achievement such as formative, interim, and common assessments that can be used to rapidly inform teacher practice and instructional decisions.
- Nevada Ready 21 ensures Nevada's readiness to implement online assessments including the Smarter Balanced Assessment, a State-administered, online assessment that initiates in 2015.

4. Nevada Ready 21 is for Our Communities

It's simple. Education is the cornerstone of society. High-quality educational systems grow strong, prosperous communities.

- Nevada Ready 21 infuses much needed technology infrastructure upgrades in schools.
- Nevada Ready 21 builds a capable workforce within communities that attracts business and economic growth while retaining Nevada's top graduates.

5. Nevada Ready 21 is for Fiscal Responsibility

Technology need not be an additional expense for schools. Other industries look to technology as a cost-saving solution. Nevada Ready 21 creates opportunities for cost savings, and for students and teachers to innovate in new learning environments, powered by technology.

- Schools spend much on supplemental print materials (textbooks, paper assessments, handouts, etc.) and those expenses would be avoided in a digital, paperless, Nevada Ready 21 learning environment.
- A recent study revealed (Greaves, Hayes, Wilson, Gielniak, & Peterson, 2012):
 - The electricity to power one student laptop costs about \$11 a year as opposed to \$80 per year for a desktop. Netbooks cost less because they require less power. iPads and Android-based tablets use significantly less power than a netbook. If students charge their laptops at home, the savings are higher;
 - Travel expenses are saved through online professional learning;
 - Teacher attendance increased at schools with well-implemented one-to-one programs, which translated to a cost-savings associated with hiring substitute teachers;
 - A decrease in disciplinary problems that translated into a cost-savings for that school.

NEVADA READY 21 BUILDS ON EXISTING SUCCESSES AND BEST PRACTICES

The Maine Learning Technology Initiative (MLTI) began in 1999 when the state's governor and legislature, realizing the need for preparing Maine's students for the 21st century, dedicated a one-time state surplus to equip all middle school teachers and students with personal learning devices (Maine.gov, 2014). Since then, MLTI has grown and now includes all middle and high schools in the state. MLTI transformed education in Maine and the program is linked to increases in students' writing assessment scores, 21st century skills development, geographic spatial awareness, and engagement in classroom activities.

Lincoln County School District carries out Nevada's only district-wide one-to-one program. The program has demonstrated substantial instructional gains in four areas: increased student engagement in classroom activities, increased motivation of low-achieving students, increased use of technology, and increased anytime-anywhere learning (Wexford, 2011).

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