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NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Press Release

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Nevada Publishes 2012 Next Generation School Accountability Reports

Nevada School Performance Framework launched to improve student results

(Carson City, NV) — Today the Nevada Department of Education released the first annual Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) reports. The NSPF replaces the now-outdated Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) accountability system that was required by No Child Left Behind. These first ratings are based on assessment data from the 2011-2012 school year. The primary purpose of this release is to test the new model and prepare statewide stakeholders for the timely release of ratings in September 2013 for the 2012-2013 school year.

The NSPF is the new Nevada school, district, and state accountability system — based on statewide stakeholders' values and collaboratively designed with Nevada school district and national experts in assessment and accountability. The NSPF represents an important advance in Nevada's education reform agenda and is driven by core values of credibility, fairness, accuracy, feasibility, and transparency. Since the approval of Nevada's ESEA Waiver Flexibility Request in August 2012, communication and outreach by the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) has been continuous to support districts and schools in transitioning to the new Framework.

The NSPF analyzes and reports school performance based on *multiple measures of student achievement*, as opposed to the single proficiency measure in AYP. Drawing upon the rich information in the Department's longitudinal data system, the NSPF produces a more meaningful analysis of school performance, looking at progress in student proficiency, growth, reduction of performance gaps for special populations, and other indicators. Reporting on schools' needs and successes across a host of meaningful progress indicators enables more effective and efficient alignment of supports and resources within customized school performance plans. Further, the NSPF ensures that rewards are provided to sustain and celebrate high performance when it has been demonstrated.

The Nevada School Performance Framework Accountability System bases school classification on multiple measures of achievement including:

- Student proficiency on State assessments,
- Student growth towards proficiency on State assessments,
- Reduction of gaps in achievement of special population groups,
- College and career readiness for high schools
- Graduation for high schools
- Other indicators

A star rating is reported for each school based on the total points achieved across the multiple indicators. The NSPF rates schools as 5-Star, 4-Star, 3-Star, 2-Star, and 1-Star, with five stars representing high performance across all indicators, and one star representing low performance across all indicators. A federal requirement to report additional designations of Reward, Priority or Focus produces an additional rating for some schools, which were identified in Nevada's ESEA Waiver application.

Achievement data from 2010-2011 were used to set the baseline targets for each of the NSPF performance indicators as part of the state's ESEA Waiver. Using these data, the cut point for five-star schools was set and at that time, 10% of

- more -

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Nevada schools met this target. The 2011-2012 data reflect substantial increases in proficiency in Nevada's two largest counties (i.e., more students in Clark and Washoe counties met the proficiency target). Accordingly, more schools met the 5-star target and fewer schools were rated as 1-star for this first formal NSPF release, as a result of students' increases in proficiency performance.

The chart below shows the NSPF Performance Classifications (ratings) for the 593 schools rated for 2011-2012.

2011-2012 NSPF Performance Classifications	
5-Star Schools	112 (19%)
4-Star Schools	91 (15%)
3-Star Schools	271 (46%)
2-Star Schools	100 (17%)
1-Star Schools	19 (3%)

Additionally, some schools will receive a report of *Not Rated* for this first NSPF release. The majority of *Not Rated* schools have a unique configuration and mission, serving a population of students who require more and different supports than students in traditional schools. These are special education schools and alternative schools including behavioral schools, and correctional facilities. The second set of *Not Rated* schools are those that have very few students and therefore have insufficient numbers to generate valid and reliable data to demonstrate school performance. These schools include one-room schoolhouses and other very small schools in rural areas of the state. This forthcoming Alternate Nevada School Performance Framework is under development and will be put in place as a refinement of the existing NSPF in order to address these two types of schools. The NDE anticipates this additional framework will be in effect for school year 2013-2014.

There are 57 schools in the alternative schools category representing 1% of the student population; 17 schools serving special education students, representing 0.1% of the student population; and 43 small schools, serving 0.3% Nevada public school students. It should be noted that for accountability reporting purposes, schools that serve multiple grade bands are divided into the grade band sections for the students they serve (i.e., for reporting purposes, a K-12 school is divided into elementary, middle, and high school, making it 3 schools for reporting purposes).

"Nevada's new system of education accountability provides actionable data to drive decision making about school supports and rewards," said Rorie Fitzpatrick, Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction. "The performance of more students is captured under the NSPF, which is designed to increase accountability to yield greater student performance statewide."

The Nevada School Performance Reports for School Year 2011-2012 are available on the Nevada Department of Education website at <http://nspf.doe.nv.gov> and a list is attached here. More information about the NSPF is available on the NDE website under Hot Topics at <http://www.doe.nv.gov>.

Nevada School Performance Reports for School Year 2012-2013 will be publicly reported in September 2013.

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