Every Child,
By Name and Face,
To Graduation

Washoe County School District
2017-18 Annual Report
We are pleased about the progress our schools continue to make in moving closer to our vision of graduating all students college- and highly-skilled career ready.

The District is reaching historic graduation rates and continuing to close the achievement gaps. Not only is our overall rate increasing, but we are increasing graduation rates for our African-American students, Hispanic/Latino students, English Learner students, our special education students, and our students who are living in poverty.

Exciting things are happening in our classrooms every day that help our students prepare for the globally competitive workforce of the 21st Century.

I would like to thank our entire community for their continued support of our children. Thanks to voters who approved WC-1, we have been repairing dozens of our older schools. We expanded Damonte Ranch High School and have broken ground on our new elementary school in south Reno and two new middle schools in Spanish Springs and Sun Valley. And that is just the beginning.

However, we remain mindful that with each success, there is more work to be done to reach our goals. We remain focused on continuous improvement in everything we do.

Our District has outstanding teachers, exceptional administrators, and dedicated support staff who every day are committed to helping every child, by name and face, to graduation.

Sincerely,
Traci Davis
Superintendent

Washoe County School District Board of Trustees
Katy Simon Holland, President
Malena Raymond, Vice President
John Mayer, Clerk
Dr. Debra Feemster, Trustee
Verónica Frenkel, M.A., Trustee
Scott Kelley, Trustee
Dr. Angela Taylor, Trustee

As a courageous, innovative leader in education, Washoe County School District will be one of the nation’s top performing school districts, graduating all students college- and highly-skilled career ready.

To create an education system where all students achieve academic success, develop personal and civic responsibility, and achieve college- and career-readiness for the 21st Century.
Demographics

**Total Enrollment**

- Male: 1973
- Female: 1842
- Total: 6.0%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Multiracial</td>
<td>1973</td>
<td>1842</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>14782</td>
<td>13630</td>
<td>44.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Islander</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>384</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>710</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>13390</td>
<td>12451</td>
<td>40.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>1382</td>
<td>1305</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>452</td>
<td>422</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Rounded to nearest tenth.

About Washoe County School District

Washoe County School District’s enrollment is in the top one percent of the nation’s largest school districts, as the 59th largest district in the nation. WCSD covers 6,342 miles, larger than Connecticut and Rhode Island.

WCSD’s students reflect the rich diversity of our community serving urban, suburban, and rural settings.

Every school in the District provides students with opportunities to explore, question, develop, and test new ideas to provide them with 21st Century skills that will help with their future success.

**Teacher Characteristics (2016-17)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 or more years teaching experience</td>
<td>1,492</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching within area of licensure</td>
<td>4,055</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Board Certification</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s degree and above</td>
<td>1,548</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructional Data (Including Admin)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unfilled Teacher Positions in District</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Psychologists</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Librarians [including library assistants]</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Administrators</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Office Administrators</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counselors</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers [from all funding categories]</td>
<td>4,073</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WCSD operates 104 schools

- 62 elementary schools
- 14 middle schools
- 14 comprehensive high schools
- 1 adult achievement
- 4 alternative schools (K-12)
- 1 school for medically fragile students
- 8 charter schools

WCSD has nearly 9,000 employees and is the largest employer in Washoe County

Meals served daily: 47,185
Number of students transported daily: 18,760
90 by 2020

Washoe County School District has set a goal of a 90 percent graduation rate by the year 2020. Our goal is to guide students to graduation with rigor and relevance, while providing adequate supports for their success. We are moving toward this goal by working to close achievement gaps for all students, connecting and forming meaningful relationships with students and their families, and a variety of other innovative supports.

The road to graduation starts the day our students start school and walk through our doors. At WCSD, we believe that every child has potential.

How we help students succeed:

- Rigorous standards for all our students
- Personalized academic plans
- Dedicated teachers, staff, and principals
- Credit recovery classes
- College math remediation
- Before-and after-school tutoring
- Saturday Academies
- Intersession and Summer School
- Building parent relationships through Parent University, home visits, and more
- Counselors, social workers, and re-engagement staff
- Freshman seminar
- Classes in Social and Emotional Learning

WCSD Graduation Rate

At WCSD, we understand that one of the most important indicators of a quality education system is the graduation rate of all students. Graduation represents the culmination of our time with, and investment in, our students.

Graduation Rates by Year

WCSD consistently outpaces the State of Nevada’s average graduation rate. In 2017, WCSD’s graduation rate was 84% and the State of Nevada was 80.5%.
Closing The Gaps

Washoe County School District has achieved stunning results with major gains in graduation rates for various sub-groups.

**WCSD Graduation Rate 2013 – 2017 by Race/Ethnicity**

The number of Honors Diplomas earned by WCSD graduates increased from 1,140 in 2013 to 1,313 in 2017

The number of Advanced Diplomas earned by WCSD graduates increased from 476 in 2013 to 537 in 2017

**WCSD Graduation Rate 2013 – 2017 by Special Programs**

*Children who are homeless, living in motels, homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters, living in a combined family household or an unaccompanied youth.

---

WCSD 2017-18 Annual Report | 5
ACHIEVING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

**Top Rankings**

- Earl Wooster High School is No. 1 among Nevada Public Schools, according to a study by The Washington Post. In all, 12 WCSD schools ranked in the top 20 high schools in the state.

- U.S. News & World Report ranked three WCSD high schools among Nevada’s top 10, including the Academy of Arts, Careers & Technology; Reno High; and McQueen High.

**Innovation and Collaboration**

WCSD was among 10 Districts nationwide to be named a District “On the Rise” by Education First, with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The award recognizes WCSD’s commitment to collaboration, innovation, and hard work, which has led to a rise in student proficiency and graduation rates.

**Sensational in STEM**

- AACT Students won Second Place in NASA-Sponsored International Challenge. Student engineers participated in Human Exploration Rover Challenge using skills in engineering, technology, systems, and technical writing.

- Kate Smith Elementary School was designated a “Governor’s STEM School.” The school excels in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Studies.

**Best District in Nevada**

WCSD Earns National Ranking as Best School District in Nevada

Award bestowed by researchers at Niche on academic strength, health and safety, diversity, and the quality of teachers.

**Blue Ribbon Status**

Four WCSD Schools Named National Blue Ribbon Schools

Lenz, Hunsberger, and Caughlin Ranch elementary schools and Depoali Middle School Gomm and Mt. Rose schools earn nominations in 2018

**Quality Administrators**

Sparks High School Assistant Principal Cynthia (CJ) Waddell was named Nevada Secondary Assistant Principal of the Year.

**Language Success**

- 900 WCSD students received Seals of Biliteracy on their diplomas under a new state law. Students demonstrated fluency in reading, writing, and speaking a second language.

**Professional Learning**

- Sparks High School was among 29 schools nationwide recognized as a model “Professional Learning Community at Work.” Solution Tree recognized Sparks High School for its sustained success in raising student achievement and focus on learning, collaborative cultures, and a results-oriented approach to teaching and learning.
**Equity and Diversity**

The Equity and Diversity Department promotes, develops, and supports equitable practices and policies for a safe and inclusive school community system and provides assurance of access, representation, and meaningful participation for all.

**Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)**

WCSD was one of just eight school districts in the nation selected to pilot Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) programs in 2012. SEL classrooms focus on developing students’ strong listening skills, disciplined self-awareness, and interpersonal relationships.

**Special Education (SPED)**

The Office of Student Services supports the fact that all students—no matter what their abilities are—can achieve their highest potential with wrap-around support, academic rigor, strong family-school partnerships, and equitable practice.

**Signature Academies and Career & Technical Education (CTE)**

Signature Academies are four-year themed high school programs that can help students earn college credit and industry certifications, gain 21st Century skills, and develop connections.

Some academies include:

- Agricultural Science & Natural Resources
- Business & Marketing
- Engineering & Manufacturing
- Information Technology
- Health Science & Human Services

**Student Voice**

We value the opinions and input of our students, and we are committed to communicating with them about how we can improve our schools. We encourage their involvement throughout the year and at annual conferences that include student-led sessions, panel discussions, performances, and workshops.
WCSD has been recognized nationally for its fiscal management policies, including the National Excellence Award in Procurement from the National Procurement Institute, for its dedication to ensuring that tax dollars are used efficiently and effectively. The District also earned the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the national Government Finance Officers Association, which reflects WCSD’s commitment to meeting the highest principals in governmental budgeting.

The current property tax rate in incorporated areas of the county is $3.64 per $100 of assessed value. The District’s share of this property tax rate for operating costs is 75 cents. One-third of that 75 cents (or 25 cents) is kept by the state, while two-thirds (or 50 cents) is retained by the District. The District’s share amounted to $71 million in Fiscal Year 2017-18.

In 2017, the State provided additional funding of $5 million after the District challenged the Nevada Department of Education’s calculation of the per-pupil guarantee to Washoe. It was later confirmed that the state miscalculated our per-pupil amount, resulting in an actual decrease in funding to the District of $6.6 million.

Other revenues the District records in the General Fund include donations, revenues from the federal government, investment earnings, and sale of fixed assets.

The District receives a small portion of the annual motor vehicle registration fees (Government Services Tax) that Washoe County residents pay. Other entities that receive a portion of this tax include the State, Washoe County, and cities of Reno and Sparks.
Priority Based Budgeting

The Washoe County School District is the first district in the nation to undergo a priority-based budgeting process, which will drive the WCSD process in FY 19-20. This process allows the District and the Board of Trustees to make better-informed financial and budgeting decisions and helps ensure that the community is able to identify and preserve programs and services that are the most highly valued.

For more information visit:

www.washoeschools.net/budget

Find information on the budgeting process and timeline.

Datagallery.washoeschools.net

Look up payroll data, department budgets, academic data, building repair costs, and more.

How is District Funding Used?

More than 91 percent of WCSD’s expenses go directly to educational activities.

Annual District Expenses Total: $483.1 M

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>70.43%</td>
<td>Teachers, Counselors, Nurses, Psychologists, Gifted and Talented, English Learners, Textbooks, Assessment, Professional Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.17%</td>
<td>School Police, Custodial, Maintenance, Warehouse, Equipment Repair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.62%</td>
<td>Principals, Vice Principals, Secretarial and Clerical Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.97%</td>
<td>Accounting, Human Resources, Print Shop, Payroll, Information Technology, Communications and Community Engagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.42%</td>
<td>Busing and transportation of students to and from schools, for field trips, athletic events, and other school-sponsored activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.67%</td>
<td>General Administration $6.9 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.72%</td>
<td>Transfers and Contingency $5.5 Million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For more than a decade, WCSD faced a lack of funding to build and repair schools. In November 2016, voters passed WC-1 with overwhelming support, providing the District with enough capital funding to build and repair schools.

**New Construction**

Three schools have broken ground and are scheduled to be completed by August 2019:

- Nick Poulakidas Elementary School (South Reno)
- Middle School (Sun Valley)
- Sky Ranch Middle School (Spanish Springs)

**New Schools in Planning:**

- High school at Wildcreek: This would provide a new facility for the existing Procter Hug High School Zone and provide overcrowding relief for Spanish Springs. Site planning is underway.
- Procter Hug High School conversion to a Career & Technical Academy: In planning, with construction scheduled to begin after the new Wildcreek area high school opens.
- New middle school in Arrowcreek: Acquiring land from the U.S. Forest Service.
- New elementary school in North Valleys: Acquiring land.

**Repairs**

WCSD spent $20 Million last year. Some highlights:

- New boilers at Wooster High School and Dilworth STEM Academy
- Major renovations at Picollo and Natchez schools
- New cooling system and safety upgrades at Gomes Elementary School
- New roofs at Verdi and Smithridge elementary schools
- 44,000 square feet of new carpet at McQueen High School
- More than $1 million in safety and security upgrades. More upgrades scheduled for the upcoming years including an acceleration of plans to install single point of entry at all elementary schools (to be completed by end of 2019)

**Capital vs. Operating Funds**

Capital funds can be used only to build and repair schools. By law, they may not be used for operating expenses like supplies or salaries for teachers and administrators.

- **725:** Tons of structural steel in each new middle school
- **420:** The number of doors in each new middle school
- **63:** The number of skylights in each new middle school
- The amount of concrete used to build the two new middle schools could fill 5 Olympic-sized swimming pools.
Transparency, Accountability, and Community Input

From designing and funding schools to naming and zoning them, our promise during WC-1 was to go above and beyond to engage the public and provide accountability and transparency for our efforts. We have lived up to these promises.

The Capital Funding Protection Committee, a group of citizens and elected officials, reviews and votes on all spending plans, new school designs, budgets, and accountability reports before the Board of Trustees sees or votes on them.

New schools are designed with input from the public, educators, principals, and students. Schools are named through a community name submission process, with suggestions vetted by a community group, the School Naming Committee. New school zones are created through recommendations to the Board of Trustees made by another citizen group, the Zoning Advisory Committee.

All discussions and votes by these committees, and the Board of Trustees, take place in open, public meetings where members of the community are invited and encouraged to provide comments and input. These meetings and materials are published in advance, and information about school construction and repairs, names, zones, and more is published on our website for capital projects, WCSDbuilding.com.
Washoe County School District is dedicated to engaging our parents and community partners to foster strong and meaningful relationships to increase student success. This work includes community engagement campaigns to educate parents, families, and community members, and providing multiple opportunities to educate and engage our valued stakeholders.

- **Dedicated Office of Family School Partnerships** that manages programs such as Academic Parent Teacher Teams, Family Graduation Advocates, Parent University, and Parent Teacher Home Visits Project.

- **24 Schools in Parent Teacher Home Visit Project:** This nationally-recognized, research-based program supports building positive relationships with families to help children with educational goals at home and within the school environment. The number of schools that participates has doubled since 2013-2014; the number of staff members trained has increased from 193 in 2013-2014 to 701 in 2016-2017; and the number of home visits, for this same time period, has increased from 1,249 to 2,208.

- **More than 400 learning sessions per year:** Parent University offers dozens of different sessions to help families build on skills, knowledge, and support systems to advance student success.

- **Engaging our community**
  - Superintendent’s Conversation Corner
  - State of Education Address
  - Graduation Rate News Conference
  - Safety Forum
  - Budget Forums
  - Capital Project Townhalls
  - Area Superintendent Community Meetings
  - Online Q&A sessions for the public
  - Board of Trustees meetings
  - Public participation on Board-supported committees

**Number of community and parent volunteers: 47,185**

This document was produced in-house by the Washoe County School District Communications Department. For more details on the information included in our 2017–18 Annual Report, please visit our website, www.washoeschools.net.