

SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT OF PLAN TO COMPLY WITH NRS 388.700-388.725
REDUCTION OF PUPIL-TEACHER RATIO IN CERTAIN CLASSES
Fiscal Year 2018

PART A

Return to:
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nhanson@doe.nv.gov
(775) 687-9108 for:
Nevada Department of Education

PROJECTIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR: 2017-2018

SCHOOL DISTRICT: Nye County School District

SCHOOL NAME: _____

AUTHORIZED CONTACT PERSON: Evangelyn Visser Associate Superintendent
Name Title

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 775-727-7743

DATE SUBMITTED: 5/17/2017

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this plan is correct.

In accordance with NRS 388.720, this plan has been developed with the following recognized associations representing licensed educational personnel:

NCCTA
(Association)


(Signature of Representative)

(Association)


(Signature of Representative)

(Association)

(Signature of Representative)

The Local Board of Trustees has authorized me to file this plan and such action is recorded in the minutes of the agency's meeting held on June 20, 2017.

(Date)


(Signature)

_____, District Superintendent

DUE QUARTERLY ON OR BEFORE:

First Quarter: November 1, 2017

Second Quarter: February 1, 2018

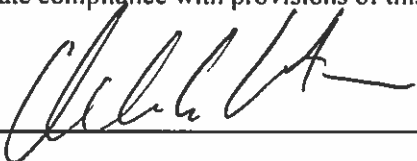
Third Quarter: May 1, 2018

Fourth Quarter: August 1, 2018

**PART A
ASSURANCES**

1. Funds received under this Act will be used for the following purposes, as outlined in this plan:
 - A. To reduce the size of first and second grade classes in the district to achieve a pupil-teacher ratio of no more than 17:1 and a third grade ratio of 20:1 pupil-teacher; or
 - B. To reduce the size of first, second and third grade classes in the district to achieve a pupil-teacher ratio of no more than 22:1 and fourth, fifth and sixth grade classes to achieve a pupil-teacher ratio of no more than 25:1 for school districts with approved alternative CSR plans.
2. Money authorized and appropriated by this Act shall be accounted for separately from any other money received by the district and used only to pay salaries and benefits of teaching positions added to attain the required ratio.
3. Money authorized and appropriated by this Act shall not be used to settle or arbitrate disputes between a recognized organization representing employees of the school district and the school district, or to settle any negotiations.
4. Money authorized and appropriated by this Act shall not be used to adjust the district-wide schedules of salaries and benefits of the employees of the school district.
5. Any remaining balance of the sums authorized for expenditure by this subsection must not be committed for expenditure after June 30th, and reverts to the Distributive School Account as soon as all payments of money committed have been made.
6. The district will supply program and accounting information to the Nevada Department of Education, as required by the Department, to demonstrate compliance with provisions of this Act.

Signature of Authorized Official



School District Nye County School District

Date

5/17/2017

A (Continued)

Please identify the specific Class-size Reduction Program that will be implemented by the school district Nye County School District . All options available to the school are listed below.

Please Select Only One

- The district will use the CSR appropriations to support the required pupil-teacher ratios in kindergarten and grades 1 through 3 (regular CSR program).
- The district will use the CSR appropriations to support the required pupil-teacher ratios in kindergarten and grades 1 through 3 and to carry out a program of remedial education that has been found to be effective in improving pupil achievement in grades 1, 2 and 3 (such as Reading Recovery).
- The district will use the appropriations to support a CSR program in which alternative pupil-teacher ratios are carried out in grades 1 through 5.
- The district will use the appropriations to support a CSR program in which alternative pupil-teacher ratios are carried out in grades 1 through 6.

CLASS-SIZE REDUCTION PLAN – FISCAL YEAR 2018

Return to:

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Nevada Department of Education

DISTRICT NAME: Nye County School District

CSR Plan (circle one):

Regular

Alternative

How many variances is the district requesting per grade? 1st-4 2nd-2 3rd-3 4th-2 5th-3

1. School District Goals to Meet Class Size Ratios:

The Nye County School District (NCS D) is committed to maintaining favorable class sizes in all of our elementary schools. NCS D will continue the implementation of reduced class sizes in grades 1-3 using funding from the state. The reduction in class sizes will support the District's plan to remedy deficiencies in student achievement as well as support the District's implementation of the Nevada Academic Content Standards. Providing favorable class sizes allows instructional staff to facilitate teaching in a meaningful and engaging way, fosters positive relationships between teachers and students, and provides more focused and individualized instruction to students.

2. Plan of Action to Meet Goal:

The District's goal is to meet the Alternative CSR ratios of 22:1 in first, second and third grade and 25:1 in fourth and fifth grade. Due to financial constraints and a declining student enrollment, NCS D is unable to meet these goals. We are the poorest county in the state. Lack of taxpayer funding reduces available funding for schools. Running comprehensive high schools in small communities is expensive. Per pupil expenditures range from \$4,318 to \$17,320. Another challenge is our geographic size. The district covers 18,182 square miles, the largest in the contiguous United States, with six small remote rural communities and one relatively large community. To travel to the three communities that mark the boundaries of our district would be an 815 mile or 13 hour trip. When there is capacity at one school and overages at another, ratios cannot be balanced by zoning changes or reassigning teachers. Student transportation costs are also high. In addition, we incur travel costs for every district-wide meeting and training.

CSR resources are currently directed to the District's Focus Schools, Priority School two and two Rising Star Schools. Three of these schools are in our large population, while two are remote schools. With declining populations at the remote rural schools, the district has reallocated/relocated some teaching positions to the larger underperforming schools during the budget process. We also use the Title I Comparability Report to review student/teacher ratios in the fall as all but three of our ten elementary schools are served by Title I. If schools are not comparable, adjustments to staff are made immediately. NCS D also uses Title I money to provide a Learning Strategist/Instructional Consultation and Teaming Facilitator (Response to Instruction/Intervention) to support Tier 1 instruction and intervention needs at under-performing schools. Based on the requirements of NV K.I.D.S. Read, the district has reallocated/relocated teaching positions to provide full-time Learning Strategists whose responsibilities are outlined in SB391 to our larger elementary schools. The district actively seeks additional funding for our underperforming schools in support of the district and schools' performance plans and CSR goals.

NCS D has partnered with Nye Communities Coalition to enhance the Volunteer program to recruit and retain quality classroom volunteers. At schools, volunteers are directed to classrooms that exceed CSR

goals. Volunteers averaged 84.45 hours per month in under-performing schools during the 2016-2017 school year.

The district has taken the lead in creating a consortium of rural districts to develop a plan to meet the requirements of the NV K.I.D.S. Read Program and jointly apply for grants. This networking provides opportunities for working collaboratively to develop strategies for recruitment, retention and class-size reduction models in rural Nevada.

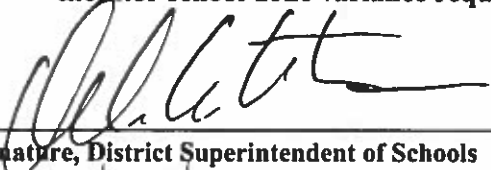
Another challenge we face across the state is the lack of teacher candidates to provide high quality instruction needed for our students. This is further exacerbated by the rural remoteness and socioeconomics of our school communities. Nevada's teacher education programs do not produce enough graduates to fill the teaching positions. This year, NCSD utilized 10-15 substitute teachers in long-term assignments to fill vacancies. Our goal is to have a high quality, highly effective teacher in every classroom. Having high quality instruction for every student is as important as class size in regards to achievement. Research shows having a highly effective teacher could be the single most important factor to a student's success. The lack of qualified teachers willing to relocate to our remote rural communities is a challenge we continue to face. To help alleviate this issue, NCSD has implemented two strategies: 1) move exploratory teachers to vacant core positions when possible, and 2) partner with Great Basin College (GBC) to become an Alternative Route to Licensure (ARL) provider, which was approved by the Commission on Professional Standards on February 25, 2015. NCSD has been working collaboratively with GBC and the Nevada Department of Education (NVDOE) to maximize the benefits of the ARL program in recruiting and retaining quality candidates. During the 2016-17 school year, University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) agreed to provide ARL Programs for NCSD participants as well. NCSD currently has 24 teachers participating in the ARL Program.

NCSD has hired several Pre-K Teachers through grant funds. The district is collaborating with UNLV to assist new Pre-K teachers in obtaining their Pre-K/ECSE/K-8 Elementary endorsements to create a pool of highly qualified candidates to fill additional elementary positions based on need and available funding.

NCSD plans to apply for funds available through SB474, Great Teaching and Leading Fund, to continue and improve Professional Development courses offered to district teaching staff. The district began an Early Childhood Education sequence through a competitive CTE grant at Pahrump Valley High School in order to build a recruitment pool of home-grown candidates who are interested in a career working with children.

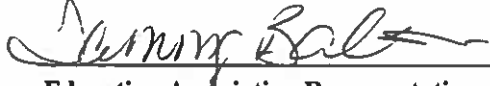
3. Plan to Monitor the Progress at the District Level:

The district actively monitors student enrollment throughout the course of the year. In cases where student growth results in the need for additional teachers and other classroom support, allocations are provided to schools when fiscally possible through re-allocations or new positions. NCSD will continue to actively monitor school-zone variance requests approved by site principals for any under-performing school.



Signature, District Superintendent of Schools
5/17/2017

Date



Education Association Representative
5/17/2017

Date

State Board Approved Yes No
Date

Attach Additional Sheets if Needed

Please add Pages as Needed

REQUEST FOR VARIANCE FROM CLASS-SIZE REQUIREMENTS FY18

Alternative

Nye County School District requests that the Nevada State Board of Education grant a variance from the limitation of pupils per licensed teacher in school Amarqosa Elementary :

	School Ratio	Alternative
Grade One	_____	22:1
Grade Two	<u>23:1</u>	22:1
Grade Three	_____	22:1
Grade Four	_____	25:1
Grade Five	_____	25:1
Grade Six	_____	25:1

Star Rating	1	ELL %	39.7%
FRL %	70.48%		

Facility Limitations: Yes ___ No X
This site has two available classrooms.

Difficulty in Hiring Teacher: Yes X No ___
The NCSD has had difficulty hiring and retaining qualified teachers for the past few years, due to a limited budget, lack of qualified applicants and response to employment in rural areas.

Funding Limitations: Yes X No ___
The NCSD has faced moderate budget limitations for the past few years, making it difficult to hire and retain qualified certified staff.

Projected Enrollment Growth:
Not foreseen.

Other:

Detailed School Level Plan to Reduce Student-to-Teacher Ratios (Including Timeframes):
The district actively monitors student enrollment throughout the course of the year. In cases where student growth results in the need for additional teachers and other classroom support, allocations are provided to schools when fiscally possible through re-allocations or new positions. Teachers meet twice per week during PD time to work together in creating a vertically aligned curriculum and design interventions. Our instructional coach has supported the teacher in reading implementation and we offer after school tutoring for intensive intervention students.

ADD ADDITIONAL LINES IF NEEDED



Signature, District Superintendent of Schools

5/17/2017

Date

State Board Approved Yes ___ No ___ Date _____

REQUEST FOR VARIANCE FROM CLASS-SIZE REQUIREMENTS FY18

Alternative

Nye County School District requests that the Nevada State Board of Education grant a variance from the limitation of pupils per licensed teacher in school Floyd Elementary :

	School Ratio	Alternative
Grade One	<u>24.33:1</u>	22:1
Grade Two	<u>26.33:1</u>	22:1
Grade Three	<u>25.33:1</u>	22:1
Grade Four	<u> </u>	25:1
Grade Five	<u> </u>	25:1
Grade Six	<u> </u>	25:1

Star Rating	2	ELL %	4.9%
FRL %	66.44%		

Facility Limitations: Yes ___ No X

This site has 3 available classrooms, one of which is currently being used for a Counselor's Office and two which are being used for storage needs.

Difficulty in Hiring Teacher: Yes X No ___

The NCSD has had difficulty hiring and retaining qualified teachers for the past few years, due to a limited budget, lack of qualified applicants and response to employment in rural areas.

Funding Limitations: Yes X No ___

The NCSD has faced moderate budget limitations for the past few years, making it difficult to hire and retain qualified certified staff.

Projected Enrollment Growth:

Not foreseen.

Other:

Detailed School Level Plan to Reduce Student-to-Teacher Ratios (Including Timeframes):

The district actively monitors student enrollment throughout the course of the year. In cases where student growth results in the need for additional teachers and other classroom support, allocations are provided to schools when fiscally possible through re-allocations or new positions. The Principal continues to actively monitor school-zone variance requests and denies any that would cause classrooms to further exceed required class sizes. A full-time Intervention Specialist was funded by Title I / ICAT funding for the 2016-2017 school year for Reading and Math intervention through data tracking and analysis. A part-time paraprofessional will be requested for the 2017-2018 school year, if Title I funding allows. This paraprofessional would split their time between Reading and Math in 4th Grade classrooms. Volunteers were utilized for classroom assistance on an average of 125.59 hours per month during the 2016-2017 school year. Eighty percent of these hours were directly dedicated to Reading and Math intervention. The site continues to attempt to recruit volunteers through newsletters, school publications and their website.

ADD ADDITIONAL LINES IF NEEDED



 Signature, District Superintendent of Schools

5/17/2017

 Date

State Board Approved Yes ___ No ___ Date _____

REQUEST FOR VARIANCE FROM CLASS-SIZE REQUIREMENTS FY18

Alternative

Nye County School District requests that the Nevada State Board of Education grant a variance from the limitation of pupils per licensed teacher in school Hafen Elementary :

	School Ratio	Alternative
Grade One	_____	22:1
Grade Two	<u>32.5:1</u>	22:1
Grade Three	_____	22:1
Grade Four	<u>32:1</u>	25:1
Grade Five	<u>29:1</u>	25:1
Grade Six	_____	25:1

Star Rating	1	ELL %	5.8%
FRL %	68.03%		

Facility Limitations: Yes ___ No X

This site has 4 available modular classrooms, which would require some maintenance to be classroom ready.

Difficulty in Hiring Teacher: Yes X No ___

The NCSD has had difficulty hiring and retaining qualified teachers for the past few years, due to a limited budget, lack of qualified applicants and response to employment in rural areas.

Funding Limitations: Yes X No ___

The NCSD has faced moderate budget limitations for the past few years, making it difficult to hire and retain qualified certified staff.

Projected Enrollment Growth:

Not foreseen.

Other:

Detailed School Level Plan to Reduce Student-to-Teacher Ratios (Including Timeframes):

The district actively monitors student enrollment throughout the course of the year. In cases where student growth results in the need for additional teachers and other classroom support, allocations are provided to schools when fiscally possible through re-allocations or new positions. The Principal continues to actively monitor school-zone variance requests and denies any that would cause classrooms to further exceed required class sizes. A full-time Learning Strategist was funded by Title I / FOCUS funding for the 2016-2017 school year for Teacher Coaching, intervention through data tracking and analysis and ICAT implementation. One full-time teacher was allocated for the 2015-2016 school year from a remote rural community with declining enrollment. This FTE allotment will be moved 5th grade to 3rd grade for the 2017-2018 school year to stabilize class sizes. Volunteers were utilized for classroom assistance on an average of 168.32 hours per month during the 2016-2017 school year. Eighty percent of these hours were directly dedicated to Reading and Math intervention. The site continues to attempt to recruit volunteers through newsletters, school publications and their website.

ADD ADDITIONAL LINES IF NEEDED


Signature, District Superintendent of Schools

Date

5/17/2017

State Board Approved Yes ___ No ___ Date _____

REQUEST FOR VARIANCE FROM CLASS-SIZE REQUIREMENTS FY18

Alternative

Nye County School District requests that the Nevada State Board of Education grant a variance from the limitation of pupils per licensed teacher in school JG Johnson Elementary :

	School Ratio	Alternative
Grade One	<u>26:1</u>	22:1
Grade Two	<u> </u>	22:1
Grade Three	<u>28:1</u>	22:1
Grade Four	<u> </u>	25:1
Grade Five	<u>27:1</u>	25:1
Grade Six	<u> </u>	25:1

Star Rating	2	ELL %	10%
FRL %	72.17%		

Facility Limitations: Yes No

This site has 2 available modular classrooms, which would require some maintenance to be classroom ready.

Difficulty in Hiring Teacher: Yes No

The NCSD has had difficulty hiring and retaining qualified teachers for the past few years, due to a limited budget, lack of qualified applicants and response to employment in rural areas.

Funding Limitations: Yes No

The NCSD has faced moderate budget limitations for the past few years, making it difficult to hire and retain qualified certified staff.

Projected Enrollment Growth:

Not foreseen.

Other:

Detailed School Level Plan to Reduce Student-to-Teacher Ratios (Including Timeframes):

The district actively monitors student enrollment throughout the course of the year. In cases where student growth results in the need for additional teachers and other classroom support, allocations are provided to schools when fiscally possible through re-allocations or new positions. The Principal continues to actively monitor school-zone variance requests and denies any that would cause classrooms to further exceed required class sizes. A full-time Intervention Specialist was funded by Title I / ICAT funding for the 2016-2017 school year for Reading and Math intervention through data tracking and analysis. Volunteers were utilized for classroom assistance on an average of 85.28 hours per month during the 2016-2017 school year. Eighty percent of these hours were directly dedicated to Reading and Math interventions. The site continues to attempt to recruit volunteers through newsletters, school publications and their website.

ADD ADDITIONAL LINES IF NEEDED



Signature, District Superintendent of Schools

5/17/2017

Date

State Board Approved Yes No Date _____

REQUEST FOR VARIANCE FROM CLASS-SIZE REQUIREMENTS FY18

Alternative

Nye County School District requests that the Nevada State Board of Education grant a variance from the limitation of pupils per licensed teacher in school Manse Elementary :

	School Ratio	Alternative
Grade One	_____	22:1
Grade Two	_____	22:1
Grade Three	<u>25.66:1</u>	22:1
Grade Four	<u>27.33:1</u>	25:1
Grade Five	<u>29.33:1</u>	25:1
Grade Six	_____	25:1

Star Rating	2	ELL %	10.9%
FRL %	60.35%		

Facility Limitations: Yes ___ No X
This site has 3 available classrooms.

Difficulty in Hiring Teacher: Yes X No ___
The NCSD has had difficulty hiring and retaining qualified teachers for the past few years, due to a limited budget, lack of qualified applicants and response to employment in rural areas.

Funding Limitations: Yes X No ___
The NCSD has faced moderate budget limitations for the past few years, making it difficult to hire and retain qualified certified staff.

Projected Enrollment Growth:
Not foreseen.

Other:

Detailed School Level Plan to Reduce Student-to-Teacher Ratios (Including Timeframes):
The district actively monitors student enrollment throughout the course of the year. In cases where student growth results in the need for additional teachers and other classroom support, allocations are provided to schools when fiscally possible through re-allocations or new positions. The Principal continues to actively monitor school-zone variance requests and denies any that would cause classrooms to further exceed required class sizes. A full-time Intervention Specialist was funded by Title I funding for the 2016-2017 school year for Math intervention through data tracking and analysis. An additional 2nd and 3rd Grade Teacher was added for the 2016-2017 school year only to help lower the class sizes in Grades 2 & 3. A 3.5 hour per day paraprofessional was funded through Title I funding for the 2016-17 school year to assist in grades K-3. Volunteers were utilized for classroom assistance on an average of 56.77 hours per month during the 2016-2017 school year. Ninety percent of these hours were directly dedicated to a One-on-one Reading Enrichment program. The site continues to attempt to recruit volunteers through newsletters, school publications, and their website.

ADD ADDITIONAL LINES IF NEEDED



 Signature, District Superintendent of Schools

5/17/2017

 Date

State Board Approved Yes ___ No ___ Date _____

REQUEST FOR VARIANCE FROM CLASS-SIZE REQUIREMENTS FY18

Alternative

Nye County School District requests that the Nevada State Board of Education grant a variance from the limitation of pupils per licensed teacher in school Round Mtn. Elementary :

	School Ratio	Alternative
Grade One	<u>23:1</u>	22:1
Grade Two	<u> </u>	22:1
Grade Three	<u> </u>	22:1
Grade Four	<u> </u>	25:1
Grade Five	<u> </u>	25:1
Grade Six	<u> </u>	25:1

Star Rating	1	ELL %	0.7%
FRL %	19.15%		

Facility Limitations: Yes No
This site has 2 available modular classrooms.

Difficulty in Hiring Teacher: Yes No
The NCSD has had difficulty hiring and retaining qualified teachers for the past few years, due to a limited budget, lack of qualified applicants and response to employment in rural areas.

Funding Limitations: Yes No
The NCSD has faced moderate budget limitations for the past few years, making it difficult to hire and retain qualified certified staff.

Projected Enrollment Growth:
Not foreseen.

Other:

Detailed School Level Plan to Reduce Student-to-Teacher Ratios (Including Timeframes):
The district actively monitors student enrollment throughout the course of the year. In cases where student growth results in the need for additional teachers and other classroom support, allocations are provided to schools when fiscally possible through re-allocations or new positions. The Principal continues to actively monitor school-zone variance requests and denies any that would cause classrooms to further exceed required class sizes. The district is currently in negotiations with Round Mountain Gold (business partner) to fund a full-time Intervention Specialist for Round Mountain Elementary and Tonopah Elementary for the 2017-2018 school year. High school student teacher assistant's (TAs) currently support elementary academic interventions as needed. Volunteers were utilized for classroom assistance on an average of 42.59 hours per month during the 2016-2017 school year. The site continues to attempt to recruit volunteers through newsletters, school publications and their website and will work with the Volunteer Department to expand volunteer hours.

ADD ADDITIONAL LINES IF NEEDED


 Signature, District Superintendent of Schools

5/17/2017
 Date

State Board Approved Yes No Date