

“Hot” Education Issue

Probably the most-talked about issue in public-school education is the *No Child Left Behind* program. The federal *No Child Left Behind* program is a framework for bipartisan education reform which President Bush describes as the cornerstone of his administration.¹ No child will be left behind means that by 2012-2013, every child must be learning proficient. States are expected to reach this goal by setting standards for reading, math, and science (there are no national exams or standards).² In addition, they must provide annual report cards on:

- “• student academic achievement disaggregated by subgroups,
 - comparison of students at basic, proficient, and advanced levels of academic achievement,
 - graduation rates,
 - professional qualifications of teachers,
 - whether the school has been identified as ‘in need of improvement.’”³

Schools that fail to demonstrate adequate yearly progress (AYP) toward meeting their goals will be placed on a “watch list.” Two consecutive years of not making AYP will move a school to the “improvement list.” These schools may be “subject to improvement, corrective action, and restructuring measures aimed at getting them back on course to meet State standards.”⁴ Examples include allowing students to transfer to another public school with transportation provided, offering “supplemental services” such as tutoring, after-school help, and summer school, and restructuring of the school by the Department of Education.

Nevada will receive more than \$192.4 million from the federal government to ensure that no child is left behind.⁵ As of November 2003, 194 public schools in Nevada were designated as schools that had not made AYP for one year.⁶ Twenty-seven schools made the “in need of improvement” list.

Number of Nevada Schools Not Making Adequate Yearly Progress for One Year by School District: 2001-2002

<i>School District</i>	<i>Number of School Districts Not Making AYP</i>	<i>Total Number of Schools in District*</i>
Carson City	7	12
Churchill	4	9
Clark	132	268
Douglas	4	15
Elko	6	26
Esmeralda	2	3
Humboldt	1	13
Lyon	5	16
Mineral	1	5
Nye	4	16
Pershing	1	4
Washoe	25	88
White Pine	2	8
NEVADA	194	483

*Charter schools are included. Eureka, Lander, Lincoln, and Storey school districts did not make the list.

Source: Nevada Department of Education, November 5, 2003, “Nevada Department of Education Releases *Watch List* of Nevada Schools Not Making *Adequate Yearly Progress* for One Year and Schools Designated as *Needing Improvement*,” News Release.