

# Testing, Proficiency, and College-Entrance Efforts

## High School Proficiency Examination (HSPE)

Of the 15 school districts that participated in all the HSPE testing administrations, Douglas, Eureka, and Pershing had the highest percentage of pass rates in reading. Douglas (98.2), Carson City (96.1), and Churchill (95.8) school districts had the highest percentage of pass rates in math. Males were more likely to have passed the math exam than were females. Of the racial/ethnic groups, whites were the most likely to pass the math exam and blacks (African Americans) were the least likely to pass.

### HSPE Frequency of Pass Rates Among Nevada Students by Race/Ethnicity and Gender: 2003

<i>Group</i>	<i>Reading Percent</i>	<i>Math Percent</i>
Female	98.3	89.4
Male	98.1	92.8
White	99.2	94.4
American Indian/Alaskan Native	98.0	91.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	97.7	93.0
Black (African American)	95.8	77.8
Hispanic	95.1	82.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>98.0</b>	<b>90.5</b>

*Notes:* See Notes section for discussion of HSPE rates.  
*Source:* Nevada State Department of Education, 2003.

## HSPE Frequency of Pass Rates among Nevada Students by School District: 2003

<i>District</i>	<i>Pass Rates</i>	
	<i>Reading (Percent)</i>	<i>Math (Percent)</i>
Carson City	99.2	96.1
Churchill	99.7	95.8
Clark	97.6	89.1
Douglas	100.0	98.2
Elko	98.9	93.1
Eureka	100.0	90.9
Humboldt	99.6	92.3
Lander	94.1	84.3
Lincoln	98.7	85.9
Lyon	99.3	95.2
Mineral	94.3	94.1
Nye	97.9	89.2
Pershing	100.0	91.1
Storey	96.9	84.0
Washoe	98.7	92.3
White Pine	NA	NA
NEVADA*	98.0	90.5

*Notes:* See Notes section for discussion of HSPE rates.

\*White Pine School District did not participate in the May testing, therefore, estimates are not available. Esmeralda County students attend schools in Nye County.

*Source:* Nevada State Department of Education, 2003.

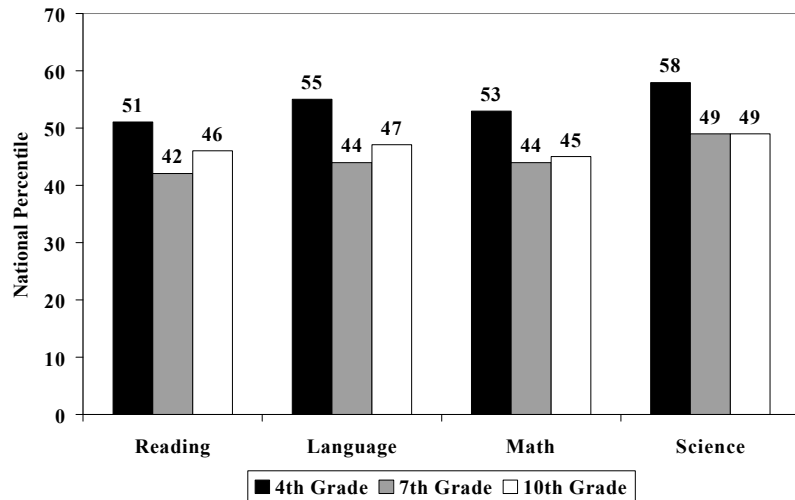
# Testing, Proficiency, and College-Entrance Efforts Continued

## Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS)

The Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS), developed by the University of Iowa's Testing Program, is a norm-referenced achievement test for students.

- ❖ At the fourth-grade level, Nevada students performed above the national 50th percentile in all four areas.
- ❖ At the seventh- and tenth-grade levels, Nevada students scored below the national average in all four areas.

**Nevada ITBS Scores: FY 2002-2003**  
National Average = 50th National Percentile



Source: Nevada Department of Education, 2003, "2003 Nevada Education Data Book," available online at: <<http://www.leg.state.nv.us/71st/Interim/StatCom/Education/Data%20Book/SEC1>> as of 9/17/03.

Clark County test scores revealed that gains were made by special-education students on their ITBS scores from 2002 to 2003. Students in grades three through five appear to have made the most significant gains.

## Clark County School District Iowa Test of Basic Skills/Educational Development Special Education: 2002-2003

### Grades 3-5

	READING			LANGUAGE			MATH			SCIENCE		
	3	4	5	3	4	5	3	4	5	3	4	5
2003	32	30	26	30	29	25	36	30	27	42	35	34
2002	27	24	18	19	17	14	23	20	18	36	29	24

### Grades 6-8

	READING			LANGUAGE			MATH			SCIENCE		
	6	7	8	6	7	8	6	7	8	6	7	8
2003	14	15	13	14	15	14	15	14	15	20	21	20
2002	10	12	12	8	12	11	10	13	13	16	18	17

### Grades 9-10

	READING		LANGUAGE		MATH		SCIENCE	
	9	10	9	10	9	10	9	10
2003	12	13	16	16	18	16	19	19
2002	10	13	12	15	15	15	16	18

Source: Clark County School District data cited in "Clark County Students Make Gains in Test Scores," January 14, 2004, by Juliet V. Casey, *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, available online at: <[http://www.reviewjournal.com/lvrj\\_home/2004/Jan-14-Wed-2004/news/22968120.html](http://www.reviewjournal.com/lvrj_home/2004/Jan-14-Wed-2004/news/22968120.html)> as of 1/15/04.

# Testing, Proficiency, and College-Entrance Efforts Continued

## College-Entrance Examinations

The average verbal and math scores for the class of 2002 in Nevada on the Scholastic Assessment Exam (SAT) were 509 and 518, respectively. The corresponding national average scores were 504 and 516.<sup>1</sup> The class of 2002 in Nevada earned a composite score of 21.3 on the American College Exam (ACT), which is slightly above the national average composite score of 20.8.<sup>2</sup> The highest possible score was 36.

The percentage of Nevada students taking the ACT decreased over the 2000-2001 to 2001-2002 school years from 39.0 to 36.0. A different trend was evident for the SAT. A slightly higher percentage of students took the exam over the one-year period, 33.0 to 34.0.

### Nevada High School Performance on ACT and SAT:\* 2000-2001 and 2001-2002

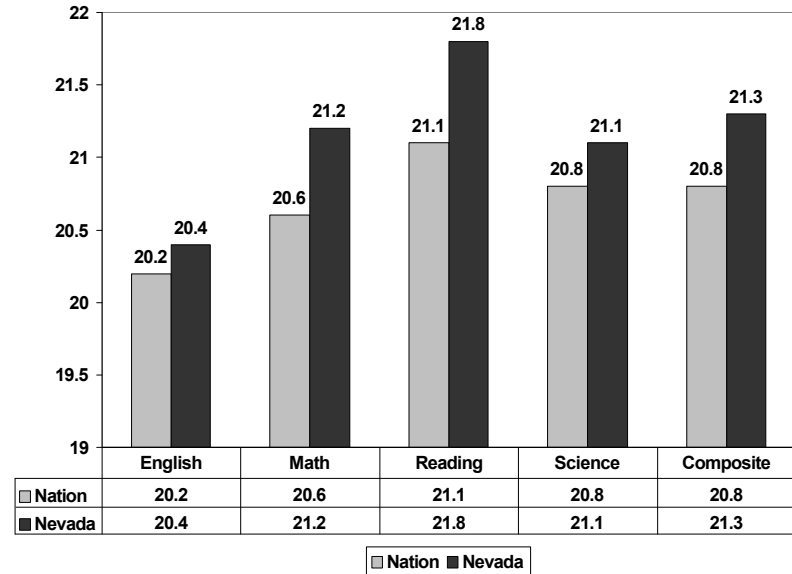
<i>ACT &amp; SAT Performance</i>	<i>2000-2001</i>	<i>2001-2002</i>
Percent of seniors taking ACT**	39.0	36.0
ACT composite average	21.3	21.3
Percent of seniors taking SAT**	33.0	34.0
SAT verbal average	509	509
SAT math average	515	518

\*See Notes section for a description of the ACT and SAT exams.

\*\*Includes the juniors who took the tests in the previous year.

Source: Nevada Department of Education, 2000-2002; and ACT Inc., 2003, "2002 ACT National and State Scores," available online at: <<http://www.act.org/news/data/02/states.html>> as of 9/20/02.

## ACT Score Comparison Nevada and the Nation: 2002



Source: Nevada Department of Education, October 7, 2002, "Nevada's ACT College Entrance Exam Results Released," News Release.

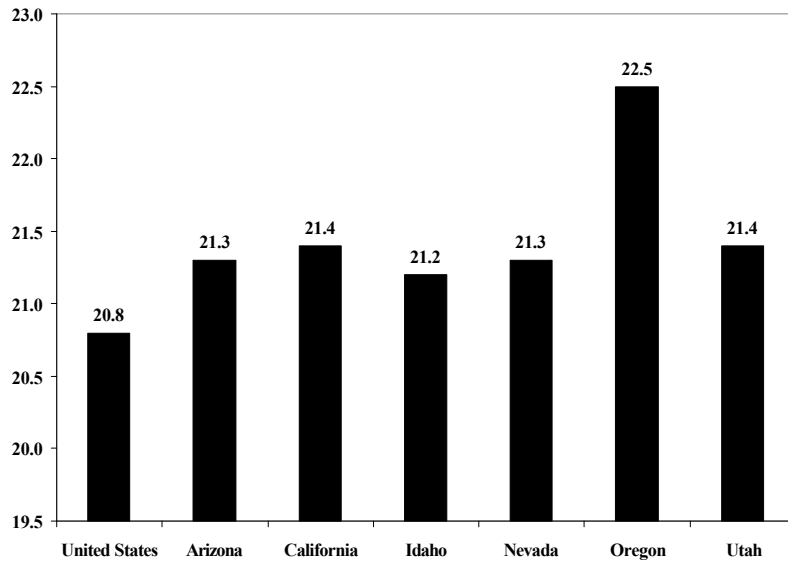
## SAT Score Comparison Nevada and the Nation: 2002

<i>Region</i>	<i>Verbal</i>	<i>Math</i>
Nevada	509	518
United States	504	516

Source: Nevada Department of Education, October 7, 2002, "Nevada's SAT College Entrance Exam Results Released," News Release.

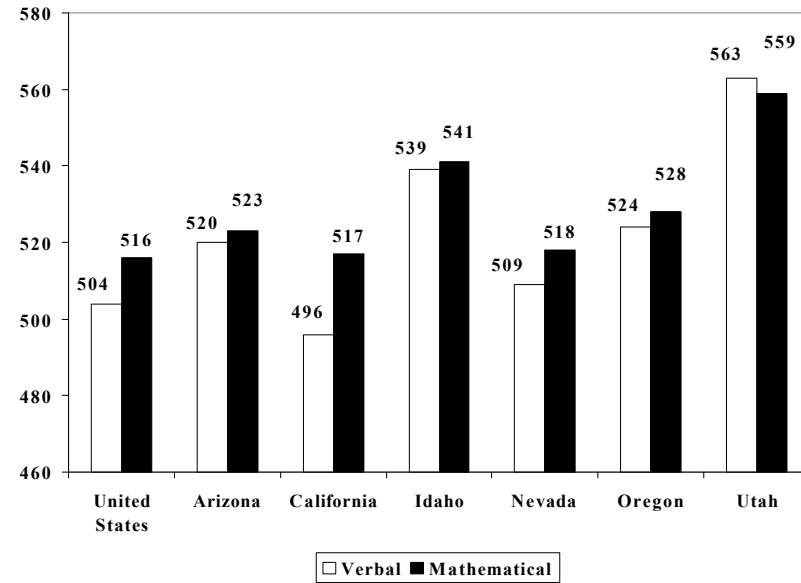
# Testing, Proficiency, and College-Entrance Efforts Continued

**ACT Average Composition Scores for the U.S., Nevada, and Adjacent States: 2002**



Source: ACT, Inc., 2003, "2002 ACT National and State Scores," available online at: <<http://www.act.org/news/data/02/states.html>> as of 10/30/03.

**SAT Test Score Averages for the U.S., Nevada, and Adjacent States: 2000-2001**



Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2002, "Digest of Education Statistics," Table 136. Scholastic Assessment Test Score Averages, by State: 1987 to 2001-02, available online at: <<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2003/digest02/tables/dt136.asp>> as of 8/22/03.

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## Millennium Scholarships

In 1999, NRS 396.911 created the Millennium Scholarship trust fund, which was initiated by Governor Guinn and approved by Nevada's legislators. The trust fund is administered by the state treasurer. It is derived from the state's share of the settlement from tobacco companies over health-care costs related to smoking. The University and Community College System of Nevada (UCCSN) Board of Regents adopted policy guidelines for the administration of the scholarship.

Nevada's high school students are eligible for the Millennium Scholarship if they meet the following conditions:<sup>3</sup>

- ❖ graduation with a diploma from a public or private high school in Nevada after May 1, 2000, or later
- ❖ completion of high school with at least a 3.0 grade-point average (weighted or unweighted) using all high school credit-granting courses
- ❖ passing all areas of the Nevada HSPE
- ❖ Nevada resident for at least two years of high school

To receive the benefits, students must enroll in a public institution of higher learning in Nevada. (For homeschooling requirements, see Notes section.) Receiving a Millennium Scholarship, however, does not guarantee admission to the institutions, nor does it guarantee admission to all programs at the universities or community colleges.<sup>4</sup> According to the *Millennium Scholarship Baseline Study*, the Millennium Scholarship increases students' accessibility to college. Fifty-eight percent of students "who were planning to use the scholarship in Fall 2002 reported that they would not have been able to attend college without the scholarship."<sup>5</sup>

## Number of Eligible Students for the Millennium Scholarship by Nevada School District: High School Graduation Year 2003

<i>School District</i>	<i>Number Eligible for Scholarship</i>
Carson City	287
Churchill	146
Clark	5,194
Douglas	232
Elko	267
Esmeralda*	NI
Eureka	11
Humboldt	100
Lander	44
Lincoln	37
Lyon	176
Mineral	21
Nye	120
Pershing	15
Storey	10
Washoe	1,765
White Pine	80
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,505</b>

Note: NI = No Instruction.

\*Esmeralda County students attend high schools in the neighboring Nye County school district. The actual number of Esmeralda County students eligible for the Millennium Scholarship is not available.

Source: Office of the State Treasurer, Millennium Scholarship, 2003.

# Testing, Proficiency, and College-Entrance Efforts Continued

## Nevada Millennium Scholarship Program Students with Funds Disbursed by County and Institution: Spring Semester 2003

<i>County</i>	<i>Community College of Southern Nevada</i>	<i>Great Basin College</i>	<i>Nevada State College at Henderson</i>	<i>Sierra Nevada College</i>	<i>Truckee Meadows Community College</i>	<i>University of Nevada, Las Vegas</i>	<i>University of Nevada, Reno</i>	<i>Western Nevada Community College</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Carson City	2	0	0	0	26	7	194	114	343
Churchill	2	0	0	0	24	5	74	50	155
Clark	2,262	1	33	5	31	3,053	887	9	6,281
Douglas	3	1	0	2	18	23	226	61	334
Elko	8	125	0	0	14	28	150	0	325
Eureka	1	1	0	0	3	1	12	0	18
Humboldt	1	22	0	1	16	7	71	0	118
Lander	2	8	0	0	7	4	23	0	44
Lincoln	12	0	0	0	2	10	6	0	30
Lyon	1	0	0	0	45	7	118	55	226
Mineral	0	0	0	1	5	3	11	8	28
Nye	30	4	0	1	8	43	42	3	131
Pershing	1	0	0	0	3	4	15	7	30
Storey	0	1	0	1	6	0	14	6	28
Washoe	10	0	0	3	680	83	1,578	10	2,364
White Pine	5	9	0	0	3	17	18	1	53
NEVADA	2,340	172	33	14	891	3,295	3,439	324	10,508

Source: Office of the State Treasurer, Millennium Scholarship, 2003.