

Notes

Nevada Demographics

A household includes all the persons who occupy a family unit.

A family consists of a householder and one or more other persons living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Summary Tape File 3, Technical Documentation, Appendix B. Definitions of Subject Characteristics, available online at: <http://www.census.gov/td/append_b.html#HOUSEHOLD> as of February 27, 2003.

Child Care

Useful descriptions for Nevada child-care facilities are defined by law and may be found in NAC-432A-Services for Facilities for Care of Children.

Accommodation facility means a facility which is operated: 1. By a business that is licensed to conduct a business other than the provision of care to children; and 2. As an auxiliary service provided for the customers of the primary business. (NAC 432A.012)

Child-care center means any facility in which the licensee regularly provides day or night care for more than 12 children. (NAC 432A.050)

Child-care institution means a facility in which the licensee provides care during the day and night and provides developmental guidance to 16 or more children who do not routinely return to the homes of their parents or guardians. (NAC 432A.070)

Family home means any facility in which the licensee regularly provides care without the presence of parents, for at least five and not more than six children. (NAC 432A.100)

Group home means any facility in which the licensee regularly provides care for no less than seven and no more than twelve children. (NAC 432A.110)

Nursery for infants and toddlers means a child care facility in which the licensee provides care for five or more children who are under 2 years of age. (NAC 432A.145)

Preschool means a facility in which the licensee has established specific goals to enhance each child's cognitive, social, emotional, physical and creative development. (NAC 432A.160)

Special-needs facility means a child care facility providing care to children with special needs in which those children comprise 40 percent or more of the total number of children for whom the facility is licensed to provide care. (NAC 432A.165)

On-site child-care facility means an establishment that: 1. is licensed pursuant to this

chapter; 2 provides care to the children of employees of a business at the place of employment; 3 provides care on a temporary or permanent basis, during the day or overnight, to five or more children who are under the age of 18 years and who are not related within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity to an owner or manager of the business; and 4 is owned, operated, subsidized, managed, contracted for or staffed by the business. (NRS 432A.0275)

Source: "Chapter 432A-Services and Facilities for Care of Children," available online at: <<http://www.leg.state.nv.us/NAC/NAC-432A.html>> (as of 4/12/04).

Education

Millennium Scholarship

Eligibility requirements for students who are not high school graduates. (e.g., home schooled students and students receiving a graduate equivalency diploma) "To be eligible for a Millennium Scholarship, a student who is not a high school graduate must meet all of the following requirements: a. would have graduated from high school after May 1, 2000 had the student been enrolled in high school; b. received an enhanced ACT composite score of 21 or higher or a combined reentered SAT score of 990 or higher; c. have at least a 3.0 weighted or unweighted grade point average on a 4.0 grading scale in all courses completed in a Nevada high school as defined in section 17.1.2; d. pass all areas of the Nevada High School Proficiency Examination; and e. have been a resident of Nevada, as defined by the residency requirements in Title 4, Chapter 15, for at least two years of the normal high school attendance." Item "b" ACT or SAT requirement equates with the grade point average; For the SAT, sign up for the "reasoning" test not the "subject" test. Item "c" refers to the grade point average received if a home-schooled student was enrolled in a public school or private high school at some point.

Source: University and College System of Nevada, "Millennium Scholarship Policy and Procedures of the Board of Regents," June 15, 2001, Revised, available online at: <http://www.nde.state.nv.us/sca/home_school/Millennium%20Scholarship.htm> as of 02/25/04.

High School Proficiency Examination

The key features of the High School Proficiency Examination (HSPE) are: In addition to meeting the minimum credit requirements for graduation from high school, Nevada students must also pass each portion of the High School Proficiency Examination (HSPE). Although most recently based on the 1994 Nevada Course of Study, students

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in the graduating class of 2003 are the first to be tested on examinations aligned with the 1998 Nevada State Content Standards. The HSPE currently covers the subject areas of reading, mathematics, and writing. Beginning with the graduating class of 2005, students will also be required to pass an examination in science in order to receive a standard high school diploma.

Source: Nevada Department of Education, electronic memo from Carol Crothers, May 6, 2002.

Passing scores for the examination are set by the State Board of Education. Assembly Bill 523 of the 1997 Legislative Session directed the State Board of Education to set a “moderate” passing score for the first class to take the new examination (Class of 1999) and to increase the score to a higher level for students to whom the examination is administered during subsequent years.

Source: The Legislative Bureau of Educational Accountability and Program Evaluation; Legislative Council Bureau, Fiscal Analysis Division; and Nevada Department of Education, Accountability and Finance Division, Oct. 2000, “State of Nevada School Accountability Data Tables 1998-99 School Year,” p. 2, no longer available online at: <<http://www.leg.state.nv.us/lcb/fiscal/SchDtaTbl/DataTableCover.htm>>.

The pass rates reflect the number of students passing the HSPE subject area test in any of 6 administrations for a traditional cohort. The provided rates reflect performance for the class of 2003. Their performance is based on the 10th grade administration in April, 2001, the 11th grade administration in April, 2002, the 12th grade administration in November, 2002, the 12th grade administration in February, 2003, the 12th grade administration in April, 2003, and the 12th grade administration in May, 2003.

Cumulative pass rates are estimated by summing the number of students to [sic] pass the subject test area in any of the 6 administrations and dividing that number of students by the number of students who failed the last administration AND all those who passed on any of the 6 administrations.

It is difficult to speculate as to why students who had failed to pass the HSPE prior to May did not attempt the test in May. Some students had not earned the requisite number of credit hours to graduate in June and therefore were not eligible to test. As defined by state policy, the last administration in May is provided for students who meet all other requirements for graduation except for passing the HSPE. In practice, some students who do not have the requisite credits to graduate are participating in May; making cumulative pass rates only an estimate of students who did not earn a diploma due to failing the HSPE.

Other students who previously failed an HSPE subject test but did not participate in May could have transferred out of state or dropped out. At this time, it is not possible to track

such students and correct our estimates to account for drop-outs. Therefore, the cumulative pass rates as indicated provides our best estimate of students who did not obtain a diploma due to failing one or more portions of the HSPE. However, a large number of these students will continue in the educational system as a 5th year senior or enroll in an Adult educational program and will go on to earn their diploma.

Source: David Lamitina, electronic correspondence, November 17, 2003.

American College and Scholastic Assessment Exams

The American College (ACT™) exam and the Scholastic Assessment (SAT®) exam are college-entrance exams.

The ACT Assessment® is designed to assess high school students’ general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. The tests cover four skill areas: English, mathematics, reading, and science.

Source: ACT™, “ACT Assessment®,” available online at: <<http://www.act.org/aap/index.html>> as of 4/14/04.

The SAT® is a three-hour test that measures verbal and mathematical reasoning skills students have developed over time and skills they need to be successful academically.

Source: The College Board, “SAT I,” available online at: <<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/about/SATI.html>> as of 4/14/04.