



**CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

February 4, 2013

Contact Amanda Fulkerson, (702) 799-5304

District announces three new turnaround schools

One elementary, two high schools selected

LAS VEGAS – To fast track academic achievement, improve school climate, increase graduation rates and give every child a quality education, the Clark County School District designated Cimarron-Memorial High School, Sunrise Mountain High School and Elizabeth Wilhelm Elementary School as the District's newest turnaround schools.

Under the turnaround model, schools will get additional resources and opportunities for achievement that have been tested and been proven to be effective at a dozen schools in the nation's fifth-largest school district. Each school will also have a fresh start with a new principal who will be charged with developing a school improvement plan, allowing current teachers to decide if they want to be a part of the exciting changes that await their school and, ultimately, assembling a team that is all-in for the transformation of the Turnaround Schools.

In addition to increased academic achievement, the District's original turnaround schools have seen higher graduation rates, increased attendance, lower rates of disciplinary action being taken with students and a renewed sense of school pride and excitement.

Turnaround schools are schools that have traditionally under-performed and are in need of a renewed focus that puts an emphasis on helping students achieve and grow.

Each school was carefully selected for turnaround status after District officials reviewed each school's two School Performance Framework rankings, graduation rate, student growth data and conducted in-person interviews on the campus. The schools will now be placed in the Turnaround Zone.

Superintendent Dwight D. Jones says it's important for the community to understand that schools designated for turnaround are not being punished.

"We cannot leave these kids in a situation where their chances for success aren't the same as others in the District."

At each of the original turnaround schools, Jones noted, community support played a big role in changing the academic culture and climate at each school.

“These will not be overnight changes,” Jones added. “This represents a long-term commitment to putting the needs of students at these schools first. It’s imperative that the community get behind our new turnaround schools. We need all hands on deck.”

Principals for the three schools will be named in the coming weeks. The District remains committed to informing the public of the forthcoming changes as the process moves forward.

The implementation of the turnaround model is consistent with the model for academic achievement outlined by the District in “A Look Ahead, Phase II: Progress Made and the Next Mile.” The report is available on the Clark County School District’s [website](#).

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CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT FACT SHEET

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The Turnaround Zone and turnaround schools: Just the Facts

LAS VEGAS –To fast track academic achievement, improve school climate and give every child a quality education, the Clark County School District designated Cimarron-Memorial High School, Sunrise Mountain High School and Elizabeth Wilhelm Elementary School as the District's newest turnaround schools.

What turnaround schools are:

- Turnaround schools are schools that have traditionally under-performed and are in need of a renewed focus that puts an emphasis on helping students achieve and grow.
- One requirement to become a turnaround school is three years of low academic achievement.
- A new principal is placed in the school and the new administration will assemble a team best suited for the school's unique needs.
- New principals can select up to 10 new staff members for elementary schools and 12 new staffers at the high school level. School staff not returning for the new school year will be placed in sites that better suit their talents.
- Rather than punish schools, the District takes an approach that provides an opportunity for schools to improve by taking advantage of additional resources:
 - Common assessments so that every teacher understands the needs of their students.
 - Targeted, specialized support to meet the needs of students – getting away from a one size fits all approach to education.
 - Consistent monitoring of student progress.
 - Highly qualified teachers in every classroom.
 - Leadership and instructional coaching to support teachers and administrators.
 - Extending learning time and tutoring with Saturday school and summer academic support.
 - Schools will gain more independence in decision making to meet the needs of each school's unique population.

The Results:

- Since implementation, the inaugural group of turnaround schools have shown the following improvements:
 - Significant increase in graduation rates at Chaparral and Western High Schools.
 - Incremental graduation improvement at Mojave High School.
 - Lower incidents of discipline.
 - Increased daily attendance.

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