



Jan. 22, 2015

Contact Melinda Malone, (702) 799-5304

Most CCSD high schools increase graduation rates
Sunrise Mountain High School celebrates 13.37 percentage point increase

LAS VEGAS – The Clark County School District’s 2014 graduation rate is 70.91 percent, Superintendent Pat Skorkowsky and members of the Board of School Trustees announced Thursday. Most of the district’s 57 high schools saw an increase in their graduation rate, with 10 schools increasing their graduation rate by about 10 percentage points -- or more.

This is a slight decrease from the 2013 graduation rate of 71.5 percent. However, Skorkowsky said he is proud the district sustained the huge gains it made in 2013 because the state calculated graduation rates differently in 2014. The Class of 2014 had a smaller beginning cohort, with 27,364 students compared to the Class of 2013 with 28,059 students.

The new method is more stringent because it better tracks students who enter adult education programs. Now, all adult education students are grouped into one districtwide “school” that receives its own graduation rate.

“Last year, the Class of 2013’s graduation rate increased by 9.9 percentage points – a huge jump for the Clark County School District,” Skorkowsky said. “We hoped to sustain that gain with the Class of 2014 even as we work with the state to better track and be held accountable for the success of our adult education students.”

“We are pleased that 41 schools increased their graduations rates,” Skorkowsky said. “We intend to improve our graduation rate every year from now on until we meet and exceed the national average.”

Last July, the Board of Trustees approved six key goals for the school district that will formulate the basis of the superintendent’s annual evaluation. Increasing graduation rates is one of those six measurements. Skorkowsky and his team set a goal to increase CCSD’s graduation rate to 82 percent for the Class of 2019.

Skorkowsky said the district’s continued focus on individualized attention to each student helped increase the overall number of CCSD students graduating in 2014: Efforts include:

- The district launched a new data visualization tool last spring that helps administrators and teachers better track student progress and provide earlier support to students – before they

consider dropping out.

- The district continued its focus on graduating every student by creating individualized graduation plans. Students were paired with mentors, tutored, and went through proficiency “boot camps.”

Skorkowsky made the 2014 graduation rate announcement at Sunrise Mountain High School, whose Class of 2014 achieved a 13.37 percentage point increase in its 2014 graduation rate to 61.28 percent.

Sunrise Mountain is currently in its second year as a Turnaround School, meaning it receives additional funding and support to increase student achievement.

In its turnaround, Sunrise Mountain has focused on decreasing behavior problems, supporting teachers, mentoring students and setting high expectations for everyone on campus.

“When I got to Sunrise Mountain High School, I got rid of everything that wasn't working, which means there was a lot of change,” said Sunrise Mountain Principal Grant Hanevold of his campus last year. “Now, adults are all over the building. Kids are constantly supervised. And above all, we showed respect. I don't engage in a conversation with a student without shaking their hand.”

Hanevold and Skorkowsky said the district's new Infinite Campus student information system also positively impacts graduation rates by providing families with real-time feedback on their student's grades and attendance.

For more information about CCSD's graduation rate, please visit ccsd.net.

#

Office of the Superintendent - Communications Office - 5100 West Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89146



Follow us on [Twitter](#)



Like us on [Facebook](#)