

CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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January 14, 2015

Business leaders advocate for a focus on education in 2015 ***CCSD, business leaders announce study of school return on investment***

North Las Vegas – The Clark County School District (CCSD) is demonstrating a commitment to value and return on investment, and it's time for Nevada to focus on education, business leaders said Wednesday in a news conference.

The leaders announced the new “Ensuring Every Dollar Counts” initiative, which is a public/private partnership that includes community leaders and representatives of the Clark County School District, the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce, the Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance and Nevada Succeeds!

The first-of-its-kind partnership between a major urban school district and community leaders will shine a light on the school district's \$2.3 billion budget.

“When I talk to my constituents, they tell me they want to know how the Clark County School District is spending taxpayer money efficiently and effectively,” said Trustee President Linda E. Young. “We are answering their call.”

Glenn Christenson, co-chair of the Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance Education Council, also co-chaired the Superintendent's Executive Advisory Committee that started examining return on investment in the school district last April.

The committee created three subcommittees to look at return on investment in schools, school district academic programs and school district departments.

“This is not simple work,” Christenson said. “Business and community leaders involved have found that many factors go into the success of schools, district academic programs and district departments.

“However, this should change the conversation in Carson City this year, and give legislators assurance that, if they provide targeted funding to education on initiatives that are proven to increase student achievement, the money will be spent judiciously and will effectively support students,” Christenson said.

Christenson also led the subcommittee looking at the results of academic programs that the school district purchases to increase student achievement.

Hugh Anderson serves as the chairman of the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee, and is the managing director and partner of HighTower Las Vegas.

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Anderson led a subcommittee looking at the return on investment of district departments. The subcommittee is developing a framework to measure impact, performance standards, customer satisfaction and more.

“This is a huge step forward for the Clark County School District,” Anderson said. “During this process, the superintendent has told us that nothing is ‘sacred.’ I believe the superintendent will address departments that are ineffective and devote funds where they matter most – in the classroom or in direct support of students.”

Nevada Succeeds! President Brent Husson called this groundbreaking work. Some school districts and education experts have compared the return on investment of different school districts, but this is the first time that business leaders have partnered with a school district, he said.

Husson co-chaired the committee comparing school performance with the amount of money spent on each school. The subcommittee also looked at the individual student populations of each school.

“We hope that legislators will take note of this work, and remember that the Clark County School District is creating a national model for ensuring that every dollar spent on education directly impacts student achievement,” Husson said.

Superintendent Pat Skorkowsky said the preliminary reports from the subcommittees are now posted on ccsd.net.

The frameworks developed by each of the three subcommittees are in peer review with local and national education and school finance experts. The school district’s goal is to provide those frameworks to the public later in 2015, Skorkowsky said.

“We also know that we live in an age of accountability. We are ready to meet that challenge with this groundbreaking work examining return on investment of the dollars we spend in our school district. We want to show our community that every dollar makes a difference in the lives of students” Skorkowsky said.

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