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*For Immediate Release*

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## **CCSD announces five new Turnaround Schools**

*Three additional schools to exit Turnaround designation due to increased success*

**LAS VEGAS** – The Clark County School District (CCSD) announced that the following five schools will join the district’s Turnaround Zone in the 2015-16 school year. Liliam Lujan Hickey Elementary School, Mary and Zel Lowman Elementary School, Richard C. Priest Elementary School, Vegas Verdes Elementary School and Desert Pines High School. As part of their Turnaround designation, these schools will receive additional support to increase student achievement.

As five schools enter the Turnaround Zone, CCSD also celebrates the successful exit of three Turnaround Schools based on substantial increases in student achievement and an increase in graduation rate. The following schools will exit the Turnaround Zone at the end of the current school year: Doris Hancock Elementary School, Chaparral High School and Western High School.

“We are excited about the new opportunities for the students whose schools will enter our Turnaround Zone and who will get the interventions and support they need to reach academic success,” said CCSD Superintendent of Schools, Pat Skorkowsky. “We are also especially proud of the staff and students at the schools who are exiting the Turnaround Zone, demonstrating that this program produces results.”

Under the Turnaround Schools model, underperforming schools receive additional resources to place a renewed emphasis on student achievement and growth. Principals at the new Turnaround Schools will have the opportunity to select their administrative team, who are responsible for assisting with the implementation of the school’s improvement plan. Additionally, each principal will have budget flexibility and the opportunity to strategically staff their school. Finally, they will receive additional funds to either extend instructional time or extend the contractual day to increase staff training and collaboration.

New principals for Hickey Elementary School, Vegas Verdes Elementary School and Desert Pines High School will be announced in the coming weeks. The current principals at Lowman and Priest Elementary Schools will remain for the 2015-16 school year.

The new Turnaround Schools were carefully selected for this additional support after a review by district officials of Nevada School Performance Framework results, student proficiency data over the past three school years and the results of one-on-one interviews with staff members about the structures, functions, processes and climate at the schools.

Schools in the district's Turnaround Zone have seen increased academic achievement, higher graduation rates, better student attendance, a renewed sense of school pride and a lower rate of incidents requiring student disciplinary action. Hancock Elementary School, Chaparral High School and Western High School, which all became Turnaround Schools in the 2011-12 school year, have seen that proven success and as a result are exiting the Turnaround Zone.

Hancock Elementary School has seen an increase of over 18 percent in both the Math and Reading Proficiencies. Chaparral High School has more than doubled its graduation rate increasing from 34.2 percent the year prior to Turnaround, to 69.67 percent for the Class of 2014. Additionally, Western High School has seen a substantial improvement in their graduation rate with an increase from 39.78 percent the year prior to Turnaround, to over 65 percent for the Class of 2014.

"I am eager to begin work with the five newest schools entering the Turnaround Zone, and I'm so pleased with the impressive results the exiting schools have attained in a relatively short period of time" said CCSD Assistant Chief Student Achievement Officer and supervisor of Turnaround Zone Schools Dr. Jeff Geihs. "I am confident that the structures and resources we have put in place, which have allowed schools to exit the Turnaround Zone will continue to successfully support the newly designated schools."

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