

SB 404 and SB 185 Grant Report
LEGISLATIVELY APPROVED REMEDIATION AND INNOVATION FUNDING
TO IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Districts are listed alphabetically.

If you have any questions or comments about these reports,
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PARTIAL REPORT

SB 404 and SB 185 Grant Report

LEGISLATIVELY APPROVED REMEDIATION AND INNOVATION FUNDING
TO IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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SB 404 and SB 185 Grant Report

LEGISLATIVELY APPROVED REMEDIATION AND INNOVATION FUNDING
TO IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

School District: Clark County

School: Kermit R. Booker Sr. Elementary School

Grade Level: K-5



Booker Elementary School utilized the grant funds to create and implement a Literacy Intervention Program that created specialized training to increase students' reading skills. Booker students had access to both a literacy teacher who read with them daily and a reading strategist who taught reading every day. Students involved in the program showed significant improvement: 85 percent of participants exhibited growth in phonemic awareness, phonics, and basic sight word recognition, and the school went from a "Year 2 Hold" to "Exemplary" status as determined by the state of Nevada.

SB 404 and SB 185 Grant Report

LEGISLATIVELY APPROVED REMEDIATION AND INNOVATION FUNDING
TO IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

School District: Clark County
School: Valley High School
Grade Level: 9-12



SB 185 funds were used to support student achievement throughout the entire Valley High School population; however, a particular focus was English Language Learners (ELL). An instructional assistant was funded to support the ELL department which allowed closer monitoring of student achievement, and a preparation buy-out period provided an ELL study skills course. School-wide, a once-weekly advocacy period was supported by funding extra-duty pay for teacher preparation and planning, and tutoring was provided in a number of academic areas. As a result of the projects, Valley High School realized sustained gains in student proficiency levels for three school years, and survey data revealed wide support for those efforts. Math scores improved by 4 percent. Reading scores improved by 6.9 percent. Daily attendance rates increased by 2.3 percent, and discipline referrals dropped by more than 200 incidents in one year.

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LEGISLATIVELY APPROVED REMEDIATION AND INNOVATION FUNDING
TO IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

School District: Clark County
School: Helen J. Stewart School
Grade Level: Special school for students with profound disabilities

Funds were used to address student communication needs within the home by providing parents with assistive technology devices, materials, and training sessions specific to each device. The grant also expanded student communication skills into the community. In order to achieve this, six parent/guardian training sessions, seven community-based instruction sessions, and one staff development training were held. The parent/guardian trainings, at school and in the community, afforded parents hands-on experience with immediate feedback and assistance from HJS staff. Funds also were used to purchase and distribute assistive technology devices/materials to parents/guardians. Students participating in the program demonstrated less regression of skills over time and a slightly higher tendency to increase or maintain their skills. Thirty six percent of the students demonstrated increased independence on campus and 25 percent increased independence in the community. Parent participation increased by 10 percent.

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School District: Clark County
School: Martin Luther King, Jr.
Grade Level: K-5



The SB 185 funds were utilized in four areas. After-school activities were held to promote students' completion of homework, reading daily, and exhibiting positive behaviors. Books and materials were purchased to greater promote reading and cater to each individual student's achievement level while providing continued support in literacy. In addition, teachers participated in professional development programs, so that students received the best possible instruction and exposure to current methods and curriculum in education. As a result of after-school activities, 83 percent of the targeted students attending the after-school activities met or exceeded standards in math on the 2008 Criterion Referenced Tests (CRTs), and 79 percent met or exceeded standards in reading. As a result of these supported literacy goals and professional development in reading, third grade reading CRT scores increased by 9 percent, fourth grade CRT scores increased by 8 percent, and fifth grade CRT scores increased by 5 percent over the 2007 CRT testing.

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LEGISLATIVELY APPROVED REMEDIATION AND INNOVATION FUNDING
TO IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

School District: Clark County
School: Orr Middle School
Grade Level: 6-8

SB 185 funds were used for two programs. One preparation period buy-out was purchased to run a Gifted and Talented Education (G.A.T.E.) program for seventh and eighth graders. Tablet PCs and writing software were purchased for sixth grade and used in English/reading classes. A second round of funding purchased a Tablet PC for each of the same students to use in their eighth grade English classes. Targeted students for both the GATE and Tablet PC program were identified and placed in the appropriate classes in August 2007. Students who participated in the Tablet PC program in the 2006/07 school year were placed in the Tablet PC program in the 2007/08 school year. According to a teacher survey, students in the Tablet PC and GATE programs showed a higher level of self-directed learning and increased problem solving strategies. Preliminary data showed that 74 percent of the GATE students were proficient on the eighth grade writing proficiency exam. Students in all three grade levels showed significant increased reading levels, and daily attendance was better for students in the targeted program than the school as a whole.

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LEGISLATIVELY APPROVED REMEDIATION AND INNOVATION FUNDING
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School District: Clark County
School: Rancho High School
Grade Level: 9-12



Demographics were a primary consideration when deciding how SB185 funds would be utilized. Of 3500 total students, 3000 were Latino/Spanish speakers, and of that, about 2000 were English Language Learners. Funding was used to train teachers in new strategies to deliver curriculum to students who were struggling with a new language. Language training software was also purchased, as well as a math and reading program, to assist students in gaining proficiency in these subjects. As a result there was a 39 percent increase in the number of students who passed the high school proficiency exam. Additionally, 11 mobile computer labs brought technology to the classroom with 30 laptop computers in each lab.

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LEGISLATIVELY APPROVED REMEDIATION AND INNOVATION FUNDING
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School District: Clark County

School: Sandy Searles Miller Elementary School

Grade Level: K-5, IB World School



Additional professional development funded through the grant allowed teachers to learn additional ways to implement inquiry into the classrooms. In literature, math, and science, training was also provided on how to make learning enjoyable, fun, and exciting for the students. A family writing project invited students and families to come to the school for six weeks, one day a week, and meet with teachers for writing activities. This popular project encouraged writing-centered engagement between students, family members, and teachers. This engagement continued long after participants left the program as families continued to write together on their own. After-school tutoring for students who were struggling with reading was also offered. Teachers tutored students twice a week. Within three years writing proficiency tests went from a 40 percent to a 65 percent pass rate.

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LEGISLATIVELY APPROVED REMEDIATION AND INNOVATION FUNDING
TO IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

School District: Clark County
School: Sig Rogich Middle School
Grade Level: 6-8



SB 185 grant funds were used to set up a Math Institute for students who were not proficient. The school created a hands-on physics lab for accelerated seventh graders. Students also had access to the Criterion Writing Program on computers in the Criterion Lab. The Science and Math Summer Academy helped incoming sixth graders transition from elementary to middle school while improving their academic skills. A different group of students attended the academy each week, and participants went to a number of classes during the day to help them transition to the middle school schedule of 6 rotating periods. They did hands-on physics and fast math, and they used computers for the Criterion Writing practice. These programs were directly linked to higher student achievement. Eighty percent of the students met or exceeded standards in math versus 74 percent during the 2005-2006 school year. Students meeting or exceeding science standards increased to 71 percent, up from 67 percent the previous year.

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LEGISLATIVELY APPROVED REMEDIATION AND INNOVATION FUNDING
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DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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SB 404 and SB 185 Grant Report

LEGISLATIVELY APPROVED REMEDIATION AND INNOVATION FUNDING
TO IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

School District: Douglas County
School: Pau-Wa-Lu Middle School
Grade Level: 7-9

SB185 grant funds were used to target sub-populations, such as students with Individualized Education Plans (IEP), Limited English Proficiency (LEP), Free and Reduced Lunches (FRL), and Native American students who did not meet or exceed eighth grade reading and/or math proficiency rates. A teaching assistant was hired to work specifically with Native American students, a sub-population deemed “at-risk” based on current proficiency data. Friday School was also implemented to provide students with after-school remediation opportunities with licensed teachers to address concerns about academic progress and uninterrupted time to focus on work completion. Eight teachers on staff received training to effectively implement PLATO, a “self-paced intervention solutions” program used with the IEP sub-population. PLATO Web-Learning provided remedial support to IEP, ELL, Native American, and Hispanic sub-populations. The Native American sub-population achieved an average increase of 7 RIT points per student in reading and 6 RIT points per student in math; based on the district’s Measure of Annual Progress (MAP) assessment. Proficiency increased in math and reading as based on the eighth grade writing and CRT assessments. In addition to achievement data, for the first time in several years Pau-Wa-Lu Middle School had no retention of Native American students. Average daily attendance also increased by almost 2 percent as compared to 2006-07. In addition to academic focus, a Native American Student Association was also established on campus. This organization focused on academic goals and the culture of the Native American students.

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LEGISLATIVELY APPROVED REMEDIATION AND INNOVATION FUNDING
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School District: Douglas County
School: Jacks Valley Elementary and Douglas High
Grade Level: K-6, 10-12

Over the last two years, the SB 185 grant enabled these two schools to hire three certified teachers to tutor students. Tutors worked 4.5 hours per day throughout the school year targeting students in kindergarten through third grade who were considered “not at grade level” in reading for early intervention. These teachers did direct, intensive instruction in literacy during literacy instruction periods. It was a total inclusion program in which the students received instruction with the class and a second dose with the tutor. Gains in student achievement included increased reading levels and more proficient readers. Students had an average increase of six developmental reading assessment levels within a year. Thanks to the SB 185 funding, students were more successful in the classroom.

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LEGISLATIVELY APPROVED REMEDIATION AND INNOVATION FUNDING
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School District: Douglas County
School: Zephyr Cove Elementary
Grade Level: K-6

For the past two years, ZCES has utilized this grant to implement a tutorial program to work with students who are below grade level in reading. Students were identified using the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment and actual RIT scores compared to the district's target score. (RIT, or Rasch Unit, is a unit of measure that uses individual item difficulty values to estimate student achievement.) Additionally, individual teacher assessments and observation data were used to identify students who would benefit from the program. Under the direction and supervision of the school's reading specialist and principal, the tutor focused specifically on reading comprehension and fluency skills. As of June 2008, students in grades three through five all exhibited significant growth (ranging from 11 to 23 points from the expected 6 to 8 points) as indicated by MAP assessments administered in May of 2008.

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LEGISLATIVELY APPROVED REMEDIATION AND INNOVATION FUNDING
TO IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

School District: Douglas County
School: Carson Valley Middle School
Grade Level: 7-9

Funds were used to purchase a total of 36 computers and PLATO software and licenses. Prior to these purchases there were inadequate computer labs, software, and network accessibility. The grant allowed the Carson Valley Middle School English, math, special education, and ELL faculty to better address student differentiation and allowed for replicated lab activities from within classrooms. Further, three staff development trainings were held to maximize the use of the two additional student computers in the classroom. Every student on campus benefitted from the exposure to the additional computer lab access and network software. This school-wide initiative folded the increased access into the classrooms and yielded a school-wide increase of MAP and CRT test scores in the areas of mathematics and language arts. Further, an unintended, though welcome, consequence of the grant was an increase in Accelerated Reader points and library book circulation.

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LEGISLATIVELY APPROVED REMEDIATION AND INNOVATION FUNDING
TO IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

School District: Douglas County
School: Piñon Hills Elementary School
Grade Level: K-6

The SB185 funds were used for three purposes: to provide 360 hours of one-on-one and small group tutoring and acceleration for students, to purchase SmartBoards interactive whiteboards for classrooms, and to fund the PHES Parent University. Tutoring for 35 students in grades 3-6 and an additional 12 in K-2 was provided by PHES staff members prior to the school day, or during the school day in collaboration with a classroom teacher and a licensed substitute. As a result of the grant and as measured by the Nevada CRTs, in third grade 75 percent of targeted students were proficient in reading and 46 percent of targeted students were proficient in math. In fourth grade, 50 percent of the targeted students were proficient in reading and 67 percent of the targeted students were proficient in math. In sixth grade 100 percent of the targeted students were proficient in reading and 87 percent of the targeted students were proficient in math. In fifth grade, only two students were targeted with SB185 money, and neither of these students was proficient on the CRTs. SB185 money was also used to purchase three more SmartBoards that have been purchased and fully implemented in classrooms.

Parent University classes, provided to parents in grades K-2, focused on providing support for balanced literacy at home. Homework helpers were purchased to support parents of students in grades 3-6.

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LEGISLATIVELY APPROVED REMEDIATION AND INNOVATION FUNDING
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NYE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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SB 404 and SB 185 Grant Report

LEGISLATIVELY APPROVED REMEDIATION AND INNOVATION FUNDING
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School District: Nye County School District

School: Mt. Charleston Elementary

Grade Level: K-5



Mt. Charleston Elementary School used grant funding to create interactive learning environments for students of all ages. The PITSCO Lab, an interactive science program, enhanced the development of skills in both math and reading through hands-on practice in teacher supported small group instruction. Curriculum presented through real life concepts helped expose students to math and reading utilized in the real world and tied into unfamiliar concepts presented on standardized testing. Read 180 developed the reading comprehension and decoding skills of at-risk students in the fourth and fifth grades as seen in the score increases across the board on standardized testing. Mt. Charleston recorded an 18 percent increase in the number of third graders scoring at/above standards in math and 16 percent in reading. The fourth grade had a 3 percent loss of students in the at/above standards in math with a 15 percent gain in at/above standards in reading. The fifth grade increased the number of at/above standards in math by 12 percent, reading by 3 percent, and science by 23 percent. Both the PITSCO and Read 180 lab contributed to the overall success of this school.

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LEGISLATIVELY APPROVED REMEDIATION AND INNOVATION FUNDING
TO IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

School District: Nye County School District

School: Amargosa Valley Elementary

Grade Level: K-8



Amargosa Valley Elementary utilized funding to secure an instructional coach to assist in making “safe harbor” (a federal benchmark) in math and improve English language arts for all students. The instructional coach assisted teachers in implementing effective teaching strategies that enhanced learning for all sub-populations, including English Language Learners, special needs students, and general education students. A 10 percent growth of the number of students at/above standards was achieved in math and an 11 percent growth in English language arts. A PITSCO Lab, purchased from Synergistic, comprised individual science kits designed to deliver content knowledge in small chunks. The newly acquired content that the students received guided them through hands-on experiments that supported the just learned knowledge. Students worked in cooperative groups that encouraged all members of the team to take care of their responsibilities to make the experiment a success. The Synergistic Lab was the most effective program with students in fifth grade demonstrating a 59 percent growth in at/above standards in science. On the CRT science assessment, 73 percent of fifth graders achieved proficiency.

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LEGISLATIVELY APPROVED REMEDIATION AND INNOVATION FUNDING
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WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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SB185 Grant Report

LEGISLATIVELY APPROVED INNOVATION AND PREVENTION OF REMEDIATION FUNDING TO
IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

School District: Washoe County

School/Department: New Horizons Consortium- Kate Smith, Lois Allen,
Mitchell Elementary Schools

Grade Level: K-6



SB185 funding allowed three elementary schools to continue the SB404 implementation of the research-based program, New Horizons, which targets students at risk of being retained in the second grade who are at very low literacy levels. In each of the New Horizons classrooms, students were provided with extra instructional time over a 15 month period in order for them to reach grade level by the time they were in the fourth grade. Results have demonstrated that 90 percent of New Horizon students were reading at or above grade level. New Horizon students also outperformed their peers on District math benchmark assessments.

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LEGISLATIVELY APPROVED INNOVATION AND PREVENTION OF REMEDIATION FUNDING TO
IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

School District: Washoe County

School/Department: Mentor Teacher Consortium

Grade Level: K-12



One hundred percent of Washoe County School District's novice teachers were provided with a mentor teacher. The mentor/mentee relationship included observations in the classroom as well as guidance for providing high quality instruction for the mentees' students. District mentors guided novice teachers through analysis of student work, lesson planning and assessment in order to increase student achievement. All novice teachers participated in the New Teacher Academy series of workshops. Washoe County School District's one-year attrition has decreased from 17% to 3%; this allowed the district to retain new teachers through the critical first year.

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FUNDING TO IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

School District: Washoe County

School/Department: New Horizons Consortium- Kate Smith, Lois Allen,
Mitchell Elementary Schools

Grade Level: K-6

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Look for more updates throughout the legislative session.