NV SCHOOL SURVEY SERIES

EXPLORING NEVADA'S PRIVATE EDUCATION SECTOR

Andrew D. **Catt**

AUGUST **2015**

Friedman Foundation | *For Educational Choice*

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FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION SURVEY PROJECT AND PROFILE

TITLE: *Exploring Nevada's Private Education Sector*

SURVEY SPONSOR AND DEVELOPER: The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice

SURVEY DATA COLLECTION AND QUALITY CONTROL: The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice

INTERVIEW DATES: March 3 to May 11, 2015

INTERVIEW METHOD: Web; SurveyMonkey

LANGUAGE(S): English only

SAMPLE FRAME: Non-Probability Sampling of Establishments

SAMPLE PROVIDER: Nevada Department of Education

POPULATION SAMPLE: Attempted census of all K-12 private schools in Nevada

SAMPLE SIZE: Nevada Private School Principals/Administrators = 147

MARGINS OF ERROR: N/A

RESPONSE RATES (RR) USING AAPOR RR2: ≤44.2% (see Appendix A)

WEIGHTING? None

OVERSAMPLING? None

The survey's sponsor and sole funder was the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice. For more information, contact: Drew Catt at dcatt@edchoice.org.

The author is responsible for overall survey design; question wording and ordering (see Appendix B); this paper's analysis, charts, and writing; and any unintentional errors or misrepresentations.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Exploring Nevada's Private Education Sector is the third entry in the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice's *School Survey Series*, following our reports of Indiana and Ohio. This report synthesizes information about Nevada's private schools from two separate surveys conducted by the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) and the Friedman Foundation.

If we assume the Friedman Foundation survey data are representative of the state's private schools, then Nevada's private schools have enough empty seats to increase current private school enrollment (20,235 students) by approximately 33 percent. We estimate total enrollment capacity to be more than 26,000 seats, including those currently filled by students.

When it comes to school choice programs, 79 percent of respondent Nevada private schools said they would participate in an education savings account (ESA) program; 75 percent said they would participate in a tax-credit scholarship program; and 80 percent said they would participate in a school voucher program.

Additional findings from the Friedman Foundation survey include:

- 71 percent of respondent Nevada private schools enroll at least one student with special needs
    - o Half of the respondent schools said 5 percent or more of their enrollments are students with special needs
    - o Three respondent schools mostly enroll students with special needs
- 37 to 41 percent of respondent schools charge tuition rates between $6,000 and $9,999 for students in kindergarten through middle school
- 42 percent of respondent schools charge $10,000 or more for high school
- Half of the respondent schools provide an average of $1,050 or less in tuition assistance per student
- Half of the respondent schools provide tuition assistance to up to 13 percent of their students
- 81 percent of respondent schools require their students to take a nationally norm-referenced test or the state assessment to measure academic performance
    - o 39 percent of those schools administer the test to "all" grade levels
    - o 32 percent of those schools administer the test to "most" grade levels
    - o 38 percent—the majority—of respondent schools administer the TerraNova
    - o 13 percent of respondent schools administer state assessments
- 53 percent of respondent schools reported somewhat high or very high concern with rules and regulations relating to testing and accountability
- 57 percent of respondent schools reported somewhat high or very high concern with rules and regulations relating to accommodations for students with special needs
- 67 percent of respondent schools reported somewhat high or very high concern with rules and regulations relating to curriculum and instruction

Findings from the USDOE's survey include:

- Nevada private schools enroll an average of 176 students

- 34 percent of Nevada's private school students belong to at least one racial minority group, whereas approximately 63 percent of all Nevada school-aged children belong to at least one racial minority group

- 64 percent of Nevada private school graduates continue their education at a four-year college

- 18 percent of Nevada private schools serve grades K–8

- 16 percent of Nevada private schools serve grades PK–8

- 52 percent of Nevada private schools offer pre-kindergarten, compared to 42 percent of Nevada public schools

- Nevada private schools' average K–12 student to full-time teacher ratio is 11.7:1

- Nevada private schools operate 6.7 hours per day, on average

- Nevada private schools operate 183 days per year, on average

- 63 percent of Nevada's private schools are located in Clark County

- 20 percent of Nevada's private schools are located in Washoe County

- 70 percent of Nevada's private schools belong to at least one association

- The largest private school associations in Nevada are the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA)

OVERVIEW

The future is bright for private school choice in Nevada. On April 13, 2015, Gov. Brian Sandoval signed a bill to create the Nevada Educational Choice Scholarship Program, a tax-credit scholarship program.[1] However, private school choice in Nevada quickly catapulted into the national spotlight after the state enacted a nearly-universal education savings account (ESA) program, the newest form of private school choice.[2] The new program is open to all students who have attended public schools for at least 100 days prior to applying, about 93 percent of students.

An ESA allows parents to withdraw their children from public district or charter schools and receive a deposit of public funds into government-authorized savings accounts with restricted, but multiple, uses. Those funds can cover private school tuition and fees, online learning programs, private tutoring, special needs therapies, community college costs, and other higher education expenses.[3]

Although Nevada was the fifth state to enact such a program, it was the first state to make the program available to every public school student in the state. Most of those students will be eligible to receive 90 percent of their funding allocation from the state, roughly $5,100.[4] Students with special needs and those from low-income households will receive 100 percent of their state funding allocation, roughly $5,700.

Nevada's Department of Education (NVDOE) provides useful information for those interested in private schools, including a current directory and reports on enrollment and administration. However, NVDOE does not disseminate capacity data, so there is not a comprehensive state-level resource for data on "open" seats available to students. For more than 20 years, the USDOE has conducted its own biennial survey of private schools across the country. Additionally, in 2015 the Friedman Foundation conducted its own survey of Nevada private schools. Our report synthesizes information collected by both surveys, starting with a short overview of the data sources followed by the key findings from the surveys. Each survey offers key profile and demographic characteristics of Nevada's private schools and should aid future policy decisions and any addition to Nevada's private school choice environment.

Survey Methodology and Data Sources

U.S. Department of Education. The federal government has conducted biennial surveys of private schools in each state for more than two decades. USDOE's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) started collecting data every other school year to generate information on the number of private schools, students, and teachers and to build a list of private schools starting with the 1989–90 school year through its Private School Universe Survey (PSS).[5] The most recent survey—with data publicly available—was conducted in the 2013–14 school year.[6]

Each year the USDOE has asked for information about certain school qualities, such as address and primary contact information, school district and county of residence, grade span, number of teachers, number of students, website, and any school association membership. According to the USDOE's most recent survey report, there are 157 private schools in Nevada serving 20,396 students overall.[7] Of those, the USDOE received survey responses from 117 schools serving 14,686 K–12 and ungraded students.[8] However, those numbers include 37 kindergarten-terminal (PK–K, or K only) schools serving 765 kindergarteners and ungraded students and one prekindergarten-only school.[9] Excluding those schools, the USDOE received survey responses from 79 schools serving 13,921 K–12 and ungraded students. Therefore, excluding kindergarten-terminal schools and the prekindergarten-only school, the USDOE had a 66

percent response rate. Appendix C shows what some of the data look like for kindergarten-terminal schools.

Friedman Foundation. From March 3 to May 11, 2015, the Friedman Foundation administered a first-of-its-kind survey of Nevada's private K–12 schools. The purpose of that assessment was seven-fold: (1) forecast a count of currently available seats and capacities to enroll additional students, (2) measure the potential interest in various private school choice programs, (3) determine the rules and regulations that concern schools the most, (4) estimate the average and median private school tuition, (5) document how many schools provide tuition assistance, (6) determine the current testing programs, if any, in effect for those schools, and (7) document how many schools serve students with special needs.

According to the NVDOE, there were 152 schools serving 20,235 K–12 and ungraded students in the fall of 2014.[10] The Friedman Foundation survey received responses from 63 private schools operating in Nevada serving at least 11,358 K–12 and ungraded students.[11] Based on the NVDOE's total number of Nevada private school students, we estimate that represents more than half (56 percent) of the state's private school population. Based on the NVDOE's total number of Nevada K–12 private schools, we estimate it represents more than two-fifths (41 percent) of the state's private schools. There were 147 private schools on the survey contact list that met at least two conditions:

(1) the school had a working email address or phone number, and

(2) the school was not part of a residential treatment facility, such as an in-patient mental health hospital.

Therefore, the Friedman Foundation survey had a 43 percent school-level response rate for enrollment and capacity and equal or lower response rates for the other data points, except for contact information. Complete responses were received from 58 private schools, which equates to a 39 percent complete response rate.[12]

In order to minimize coverage bias, we took the following steps:

- compiled private school email list from association membership searches and NVDOE and added schools from PSS,
- called schools to collect missing email addresses,
- contacted all 147 schools at least three times directing them to the SurveyMonkey link containing the survey,
- obtained the endorsement of five school associations, one Catholic diocese, and one advocacy organization,
    - o five of those entities sent e-mails to their member schools encouraging participation,
- verified school email addresses through school websites, where possible, and
- called remaining non-respondents to ensure email was received and to further encourage participation.

The Friedman Foundation's survey sample should provide a meaningful representation of the state's private school sector.

PART I

Friedman Foundation Survey (2014–15)

Do Nevada's private schools have available seats for new students?

Of the schools taking part in the Friedman Foundation survey, we cautiously estimate 3,700 open seats—across all grades—are available in the state's private school choice sector. Note that this is an estimate provided directly by the 63 private schools in this survey. The projected estimate for Nevada's total private school sector is closer to 6,600 open seats for K–12 students.

Open Seats in Respondent Private Schools (2014–15)

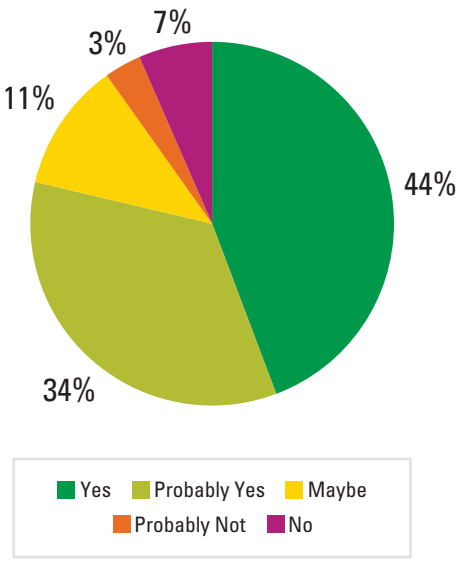
Private School Grade Level	Number of Open Seats
TOTAL	3,720
Kindergarten	373
Elementary School	1,521
Middle School	723
High School	889
Ungraded	214

number of schools responding = 63; item response rate = 43%

If enacted, would schools participate in an education savings account (ESA) program?

When asked if they would participate in an ESA program, nearly four out of five respondent private schools (79 percent; 48 of 61 schools) said "yes" or "probably yes." Another 11 percent of schools said "maybe"; in other words, they would consider participation. Approximately one out of 30 schools (3 percent) said they would probably not participate. Only four schools (7 percent) said "no" when asked if they would participate. In the comments section, some of the schools that said "probably yes" or "maybe" indicated their participation would depend on any restrictions that might be placed on their curriculum.[13]

Private School Responses to Potential ESA Program Participation

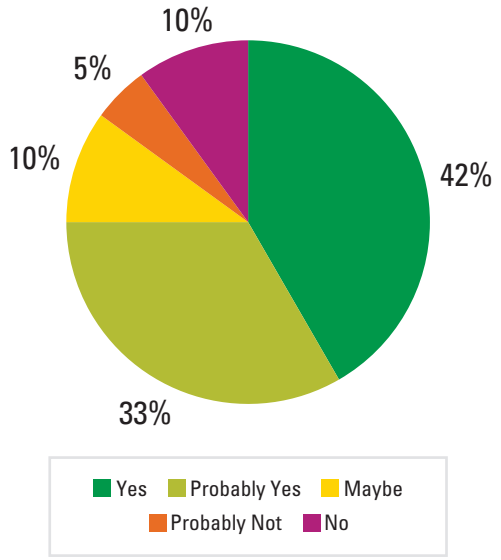


number of schools responding = 61; item response rate = 41%

If enacted, would schools participate in a tax-credit scholarship program?

When asked if they would participate in a tax-credit scholarship (TCS) program, approximately three-quarters of respondent private schools (75 percent; 45 of 61 schools) said "yes" or "probably yes." Another 10 percent of schools said "maybe." In other words, they would consider participation. Approximately one out of 20 schools (5 percent) said they would probably not participate. Only six schools (10 percent) said "no" when asked if they would participate.

Private School Responses to Potential TCS Program Participation

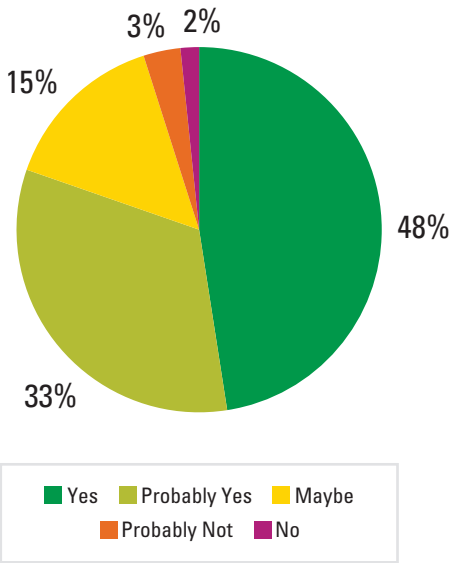


number of schools responding = 60; item response rate = 41%

If enacted, would schools participate in a voucher program?

When asked if they would participate in a voucher program, approximately four out of five respondent private schools (80 percent; 49 of 61 schools) said "yes" or "probably yes." More than one out of seven (15 percent) schools said "maybe"; in other words, they would consider participation. Approximately 3 percent of schools said they would probably not participate. Only one school said "no" when asked if it would participate.

Private School Responses to Potential Voucher Program Participation



number of schools responding = 61; item response rate = 41%

Which private school choice program rules and regulations would concern schools most?

More than eight out of 10 schools (85 percent; 58 of 63 schools) that responded to our survey shared their concerns about potential rules and regulations from state government for at least one of the categories. On average, respondent schools were most concerned with rules pertaining to:

- setting curriculum and instruction,
- accommodations for students with special needs
- school admissions and enrollment guidelines, and
- testing and accountability.

More than two-fifths of the schools that responded to that question (43 percent) said they would have "very high" concerns with regulations concerning curriculum and instruction. In the comments section, most schools expressed apprehension related to how a school choice program might affect their curriculum.

Number of Private Schools with Somewhat High or Very High Concern for Specific Rules and Regulations

Rule/Regulation	Number of Private Schools
Curriculum and Instruction	39
Accommodations for Students with Special Needs	33
School Admissions and Enrollment Guidelines	31
Testing and Accountability	29
Tuition and Fees	29
Paperwork and Reporting	26
School Eligibility for Program (e.g. register with state)	23
Student Eligibility for Program (e.g. income limit)	23
Teacher/Staff Certification and Licensure	22
Financial Reporting and Disclosure	21
Building Safety and Security	16

number of schools responding = 58; item response rate = 39%

Average Concern Level for Specific Rules and Regulations (1 = Very Low, 5 = Very High)

Rule/Regulation	Average Concern Level
Curriculum and Instruction	3.9
Accommodations for Students with Special Needs	3.8
School Admissions and Enrollment Guidelines	3.5
Testing and Accountability	3.5
Tuition and Fees	3.5
Paperwork and Reporting	3.3
School Eligibility for Program (e.g. register with state)	3.3
Student Eligibility for Program (e.g. income limit)	3.3
Teacher/Staff Certification and Licensure	3.2
Financial Reporting and Disclosure	3.2
Building Safety and Security	2.9

number of schools responding = 58; item response rate = 39%

Which geographic areas have the most open seats in Nevada's private schools?

Of the private schools that responded to the Friedman Foundation survey, Clark County had the most open K–12 private school seats during the 2014–15 school year.

- Henderson had a little less than one-third (32 percent) the number of open seats Las Vegas had. Reno had a little less than one-tenth (9 percent) the number of open seats Las Vegas had.
- Washoe County had a little more than one-tenth the number of open seats (11 percent) Clark County had.

Which geographic areas have the most respondent private schools?

More than four-fifths (83 percent) of the Nevada private schools that responded to the Friedman Foundation survey are located in Las Vegas, Henderson, or Reno (52 of 63 schools).

More than nine out of 10 (94 percent) of the state's respondent private schools are located in Clark or Washoe counties (59 of 63 schools).

Nevada Counties Having Respondent Private Schools (2014–15)

County	Number of Private Schools
Clark	46
Washoe	13
Carson City	2
Douglas	2

number of schools responding = 63; item response rate = 43%

Nevada Cities Having Open Seats in Respondent Private Schools (2014–15)

City	Number of Open Seats
Las Vegas	2,353
Henderson	760
Reno	214
North Las Vegas	110
Sparks	94
Carson City	82
Incline Village	47
Minden	30
Boulder City	20
Gardnerville	10

number of schools responding = 63; item response rate = 43%

Nevada Counties Having Open Seats in Respondent Private Schools (2014–15)

County	Number of Open Seats
Clark	3,243
Washoe	355
Carson City	82
Douglas	40

number of schools responding = 63; item response rate = 43%

Nevada Cities Having Respondent Private Schools (2014–15)

City	Number of Private Schools
Las Vegas	36
Henderson	8
Reno	8
Sparks	4
Carson City	2
Boulder City	1
Gardnerville	1
Incline Village	1
Minden	1
North Las Vegas	1

number of schools responding = 63; item response rate = 43%

What is the cost of tuition among private schools?

Half of private schools for which tuition data are available charge $6,450 or less for elementary and $6,375 or less for middle school grades. Half of private schools for which tuition data are available charge less than $8,100 for high school grades.

It appears there are some especially expensive schools at all levels that create the gaps between "average" and "median" private school tuition rates seen in the first accompanying table. The minimum tuition charged at any level is $10 and the maximum tuition charged at any level is $23,100, although there are outliers because a few schools mainly serve students with special needs.

More than half of Nevada private schools (56 percent) charge $6,000 to $9,999 for prekindergarten, while approximately two out of five charge the same range for kindergarten, elementary school grades, and middle school grades (41 percent, 40 percent, and 37 percent, respectively). Nearly half of Nevada private schools (47 percent) charge the same range for high school grades.

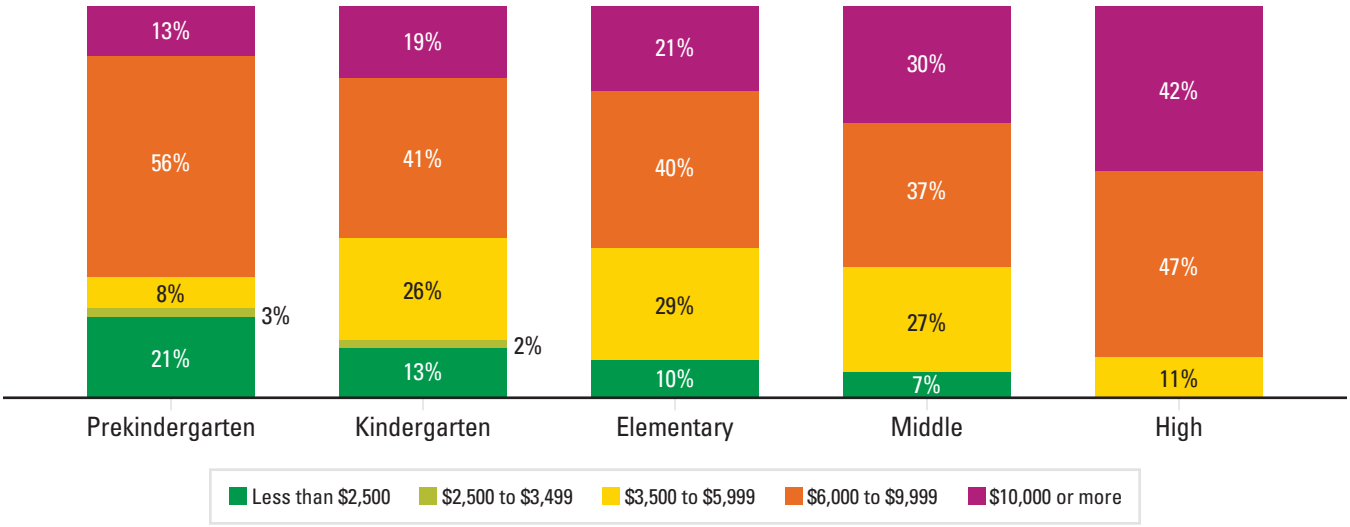
Tuition Amounts for Nevada Private Schools (2014–15)

Grade(s)	Average Tuition	Median Tuition	Minimum Tuition	Maximum Tuition
OVERALL	$7,664	$7,072	$10	$23,100
Prekindergarten	$6,733	$7,500	$10	$14,150
Kindergarten	$6,952	$6,450	$10	$19,050
Elementary School	$7,432	$6,375	$200	$19,050
Middle School	$8,543	$7,180	$385	$19,750
High School	$10,726	$8,100	$4,500	$23,100

number of schools responding = 62; item response rate = 42%

Continued

Nevada Private School Tuition Ranges by Grade Level (2014–15)



number of schools responding = 62; item response rate = 42%

What do private schools charge in fees?

Half of schools for which fee data is available charge $400 or less, and the Nevada private schools for which fee data is available charge $25 to $3,600 in total fees. Those fees are in addition to the tuition that schools charge students. The fee category in which Nevada schools charge the most, on average, is Transportation, although only one school responded in this category (see response rates for each category in Appendix A). Fees under the "other" category included those for athletics, lab materials, field trips and experiential travel, and general student activity fees.

Continued

Fee Amounts for Nevada Private Schools (2014–15)

Fee Category	Average Fee	Median Fee	Minimum Fee	Maximum Fee
TOTAL	$504	$400	$25	$3,600
Registration/Application	$271	$200	$25	$750
Textbooks	$327	$300	$50	$1,000
Technology	$84	$100	$10	$150
Transportation	$3,600	$3,600	$3,600	$3,600
Uniforms	$114	$150	$25	$200
Other	$235	$263	$40	$350

number of schools responding = 61; item response rate = 41%

Note: Although 61 schools responded to this question, the number of schools responding to each fee category varied widely. For example, just one school responded to the transportation fee category. For further information, see Appendix A.

What proportion of Nevada private schools offers some form of financial assistance, and how much do they offer?

More than eight out of 10 of the state's private schools for which tuition data are available (82 percent) provide some form of tuition assistance. Half of those schools provide financial assistance to more than one out of 10 of their students (13 percent), and half of those schools provide $1,050 or more in financial assistance.

Tuition Assistance Provided by Nevada Private Schools (2014–15)

	Average	Median
Percentage of Students Receiving Financial Assistance (Including Discounts)	24%	13%
Tuition Assistance Per Student	$2,657	$1,050

number of schools responding = 51; item response rate = 35%

What proportion of Nevada private schools educates students with special needs?

For the schools that responded to this question, it's estimated more than one out of 10 students attending Nevada private schools (11 percent) had special needs in 2014–15, on average.[14] Comparatively, the same proportion of Nevada public school students (11 percent) had special needs in 2012–13.[15]

However, it is important to note that, in three of the respondent schools, students with special needs make up more than 75 percent of the student body, so the median proportion of students (5 percent) may be more important for comparisons. A median of that data point could not be found for Nevada public schools.

Nevada Private Schools' Percentage of Students with Special Needs (2014–15)

Student Profile	Average Percent of Private Schools' Students	Median Percent of Private Schools' Students
With Special Needs	11%	5%
Without Special Needs	89%	95%

number of schools responding = 41; item response rate = 28%

What proportion of the state's private schools enrolls students with special needs?

Of those schools that responded to the previous question, more than seven out of 10 (71 percent; 42 of 59 schools) enrolled at least one student with special needs in 2014–15.

Nevada Private Schools Enrolling Students with Special Needs (2014–15)

Enrolled Student(s) with Special Needs	Number of Private Schools	Percent of State's Private Schools
Yes	42	71%
No	17	29%

number of schools responding = 59; item response rate = 40%

Do respondent schools test their students annually?

More than four out of five Nevada private schools (81 percent) require their students to take a nationally norm-referenced test or the state assessment to measure student academic performance. Of those schools, nearly half (48 percent) reported they administer the test to "all" grade levels. More than one out of 10 schools that responded to this question said they require the state's criterion-referenced assessments (13 percent; 6 of 48 schools). All of these schools also give at least one nationally norm-referenced assessment.[16]

Nearly one-third of the schools that require a standardized test (31 percent) administer the TerraNova. Nearly one-fifth of Nevada's testing schools (19 percent) require the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS). Approximately one out of 10 Nevada private schools that require a standardized test administer the ACT Aspire or ERB (10 percent and 8 percent, respectively).

Grade Levels Tested in Nevada Private Schools (2014–15)

Grades Tested	Number of Testing Schools	Percentage of State's Private Schools
TOTAL	48	81%
All	23	39%
Most	19	32%
Few	5	8%

number of schools responding = 48; item response rate = 33%

Most Common Nationally Norm-Referenced Standardized Tests Used by Nevada Private Schools (2014–15)

Standardized Test	Number of Testing Schools	Percentage of State's Private Schools
TerraNova	15	31%
ITBS	9	19%
ACT Aspire	5	10%
ERB	4	8%
PSAT	3	6%
Stanford 10	3	6%

number of schools responding = 48; item response rate = 33%

PART II

U.S. Department of Education: PSS datasets (1989–1990 to 2013–14)

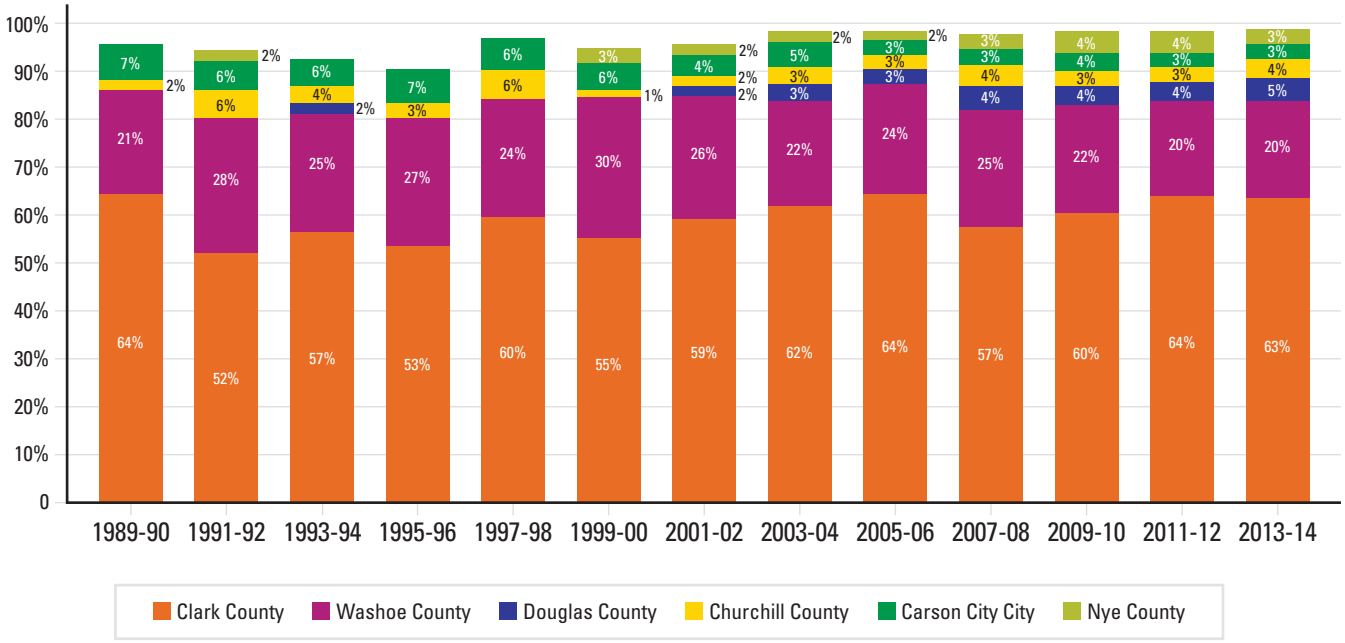
Which geographic areas have the most private schools?

Generally speaking, the following two areas represent the cradles of private schools spread out across Nevada: Clark County has nearly two out of three of the state's private schools (63 percent; 50 of 79 schools) and Washoe County has approximately 20 percent (16 of 79 schools). However, both counties' proportion of the state's private schools has decreased since 2005–06.[17]

Seven Nevada Counties Having Private Schools (2013–14)

County	Number of Private Schools	Number of Private School Students
Clark	50	10,765
Washoe	16	2,380
Douglas	4	246
Churchill	3	107
Carson City	2	266
Nye	2	119
Lyon	2	38

Proportion of Nevada Private Schools by County (1989–90 to 2013–14)



What types of communities have the most private schools?

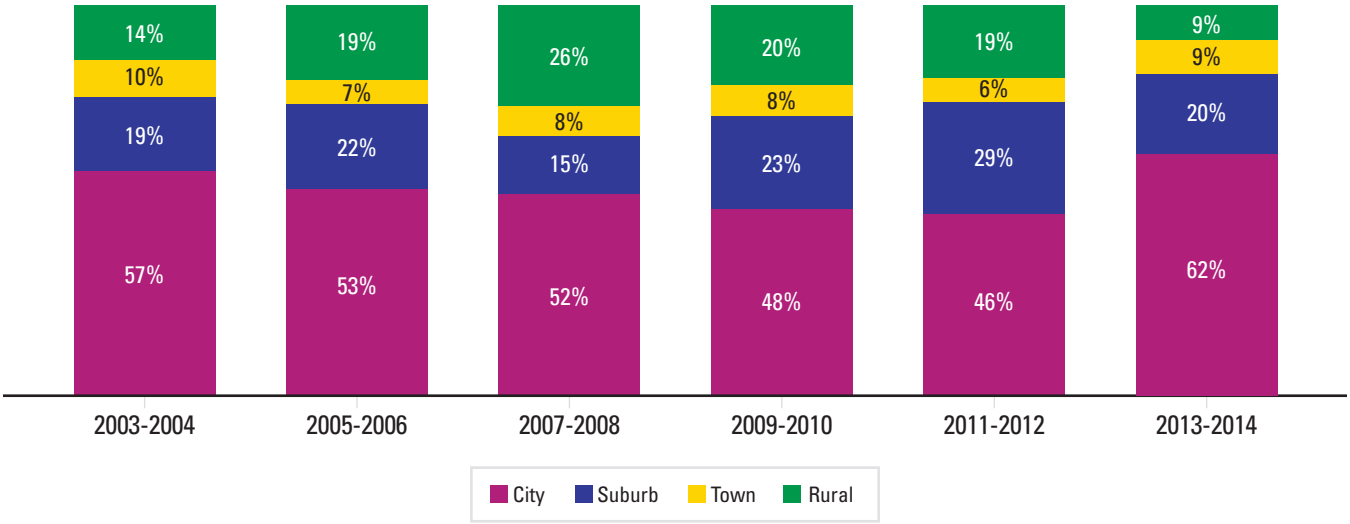
More than three out of five of Nevada's private schools (62 percent) are in a city (49 of 79 schools) and approximately one out of five (20 percent) are in a suburban area (16 of 79 schools). However, 44 percent of Nevada's private school *students* attend school in a city, compared with 32 percent in suburban areas, 2 percent in towns, and 11 percent in rural areas.

The distribution of Nevada's private schools by community type has changed little over time. However, there has been a slight increase in the share of schools in cities and a small drop in the share of schools in rural areas.

Nevada Private Schools by Community Type (2013–14)

Community Type	Number of Private Schools	Percent of State's Private Schools
City	49	62%
Suburb	16	20%
Town	7	9%
Rural	7	9%

Proportion of Nevada Private Schools by Community Type (2003–04 to 2013–14)



Which cities have the most private schools?

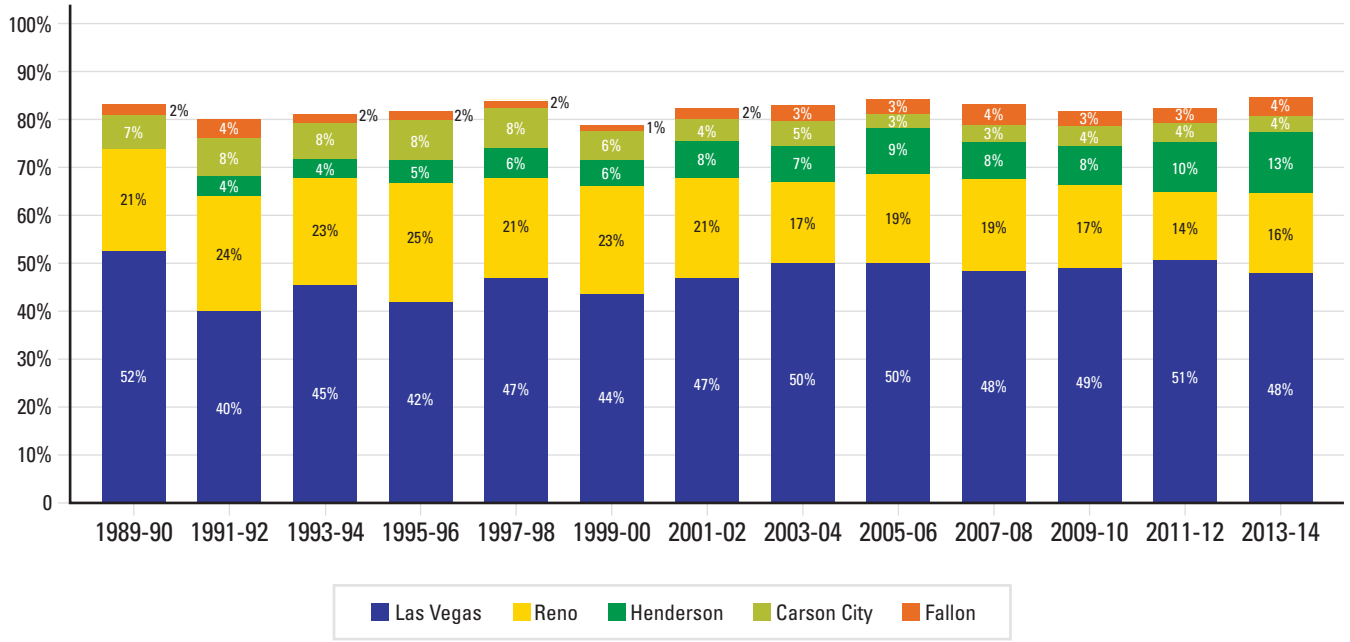
More than three-quarters of the state's private schools (77 percent) are located in Las Vegas, Reno, or Henderson (61 of 79 schools).

The percentage of the state's private schools in Las Vegas has fluctuated slightly over time but has remained fairly consistent overall. The concentration of the schools in Reno has decreased, and the concentration of schools in Henderson has increased. Those three areas have contained anywhere from slightly more than two-thirds (68 percent in 1991–92) to nearly four out of five (78 percent in 2005–06) of the state's private schools over time.

Top Seven Nevada Cities Having Largest Number of Private Schools (2013–14)

City	Number of Private Schools	Number of Private School Students
Las Vegas	38	8,733
Reno	13	1,972
Henderson	10	1,771
Carson City	3	367
Fallon	3	107
Sparks	2	285
Gardnerville	2	85

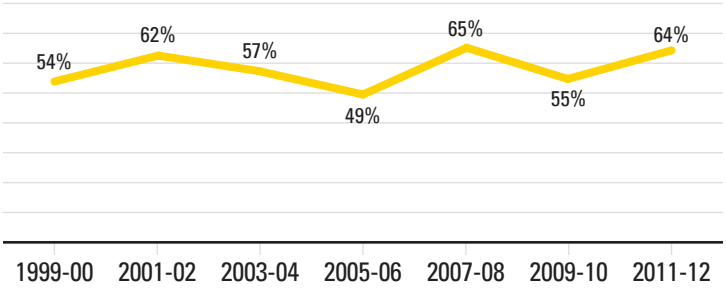
Proportion of Nevada Private Schools by City (1989–90 to 2013–14)



How many Nevada private school graduates went to four-year colleges?

Nearly two-thirds of private school students who graduated with a diploma in 2010-11 (64 percent) continued their education at a four-year college. This is on par with the national average for private school graduates (65 percent). Although there has been some fluctuation, the percent of seniors graduating Nevada private schools with a diploma and going on to a four-year college has increased overall since 1999–00.

Proportion of Nevada Private School Graduates Enrolling in a Four-Year College (1999–00 to 2011–12)



How many of Nevada's students attend private school?

More than 20,000 students attend private school in Nevada, according to the most recent data currently available. This is an increase of approximately 90 percent from 1993–94. By contrast, the number of students attending public school in Nevada has increased approximately 85 percent across the same time periods.[18]

Fewer than one out of 20 Nevada students (4 percent) attend private school. Over the course of nearly 20 years, this proportion has remained fairly consistent, although there has been an increase of 199,492 public school students and an increase of 9,673 private school students.[19]

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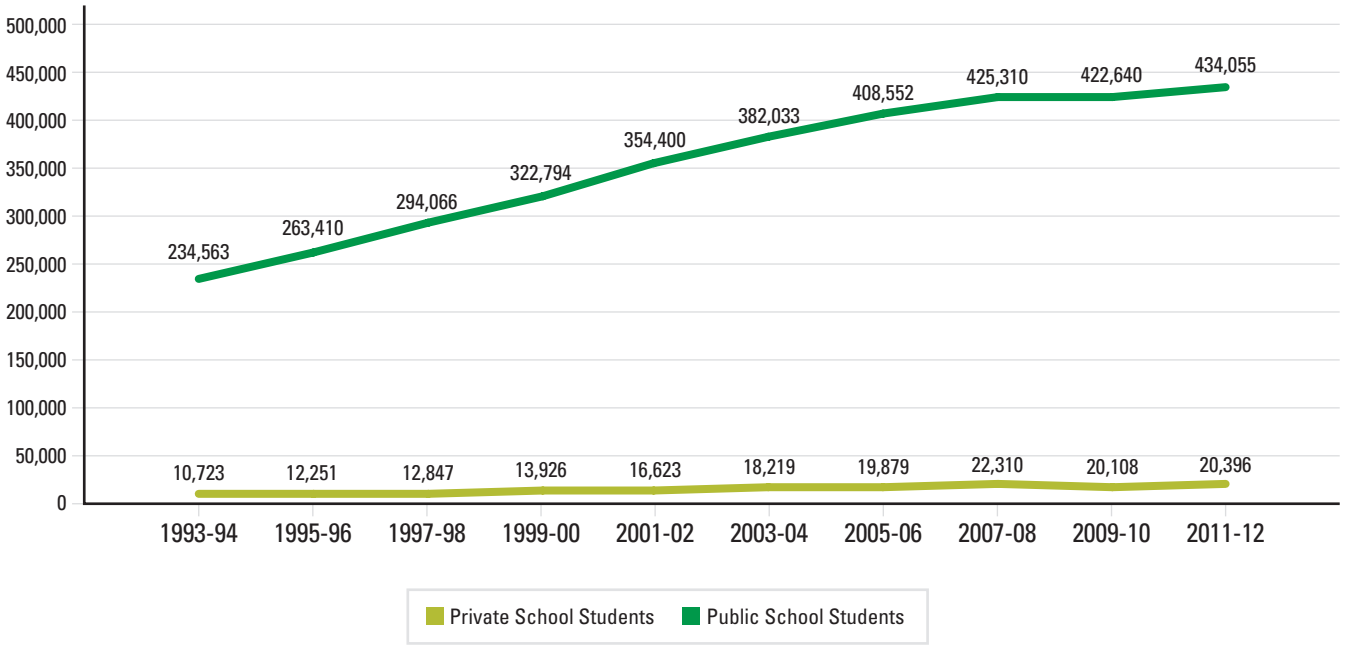
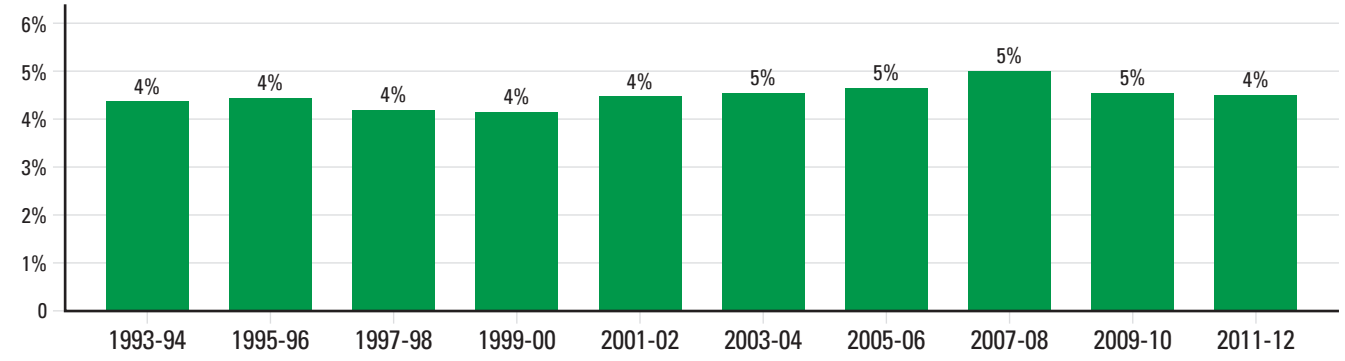
Number of K–12 Students in Nevada (1993–94 to 2011–12)



Proportion of Nevada Students Attending Private School (1993–94 to 2011–12)

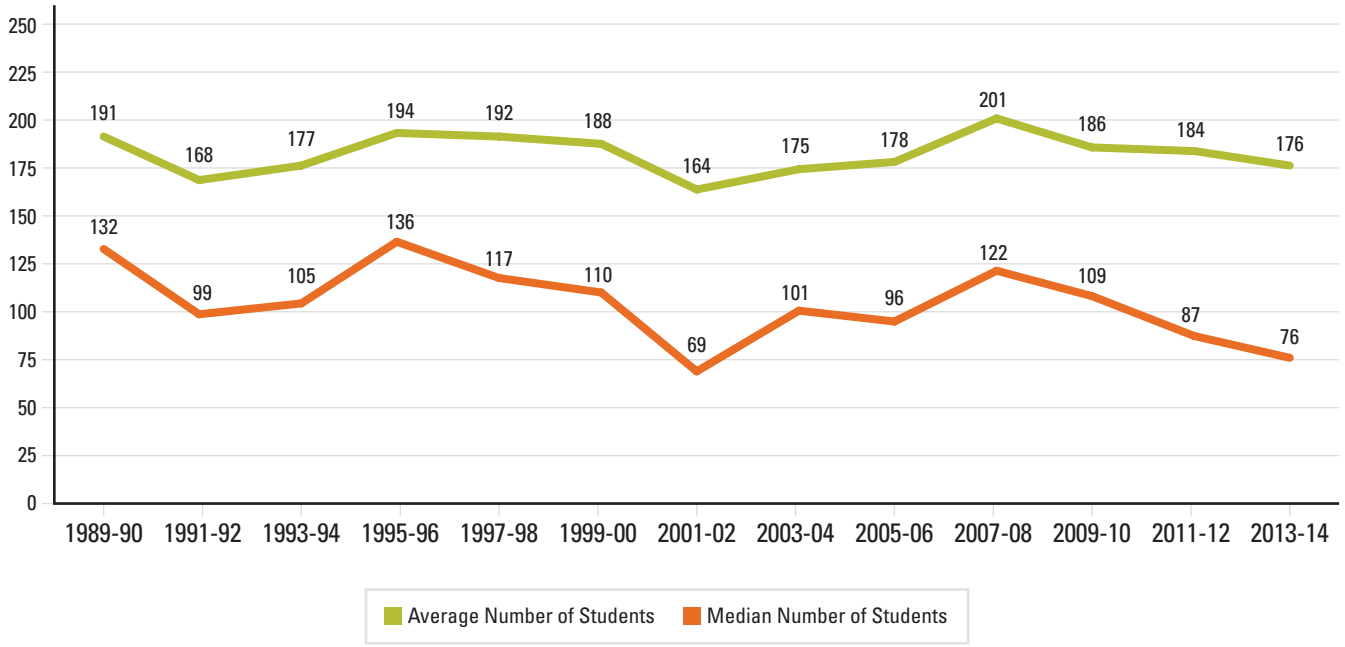


What is the state's average and median private school size (enrollment)?

The average private school size in Nevada is 176 K–12 students, and the median private school size is 76 K–12 students (half of all private schools are above or below that enrollment number). The reason the median is so much lower than the average is most likely a result of there being 23 schools with less than 30 K–12 students.

After a decline in the state's average private school size in the early 1990s, it fluctuated until eventually reaching a high of 201 in 2007–08. The state's median private school size experienced a similar fluctuation. Speculative reasons for the change could be anything from a greater number of schools with fewer than 30 K–12 students responding in some years more than others to the merging of some schools with separate schooling levels (K–6 and 7–12).

Enrollments of Nevada Private Schools (1989–90 to 2013–14)

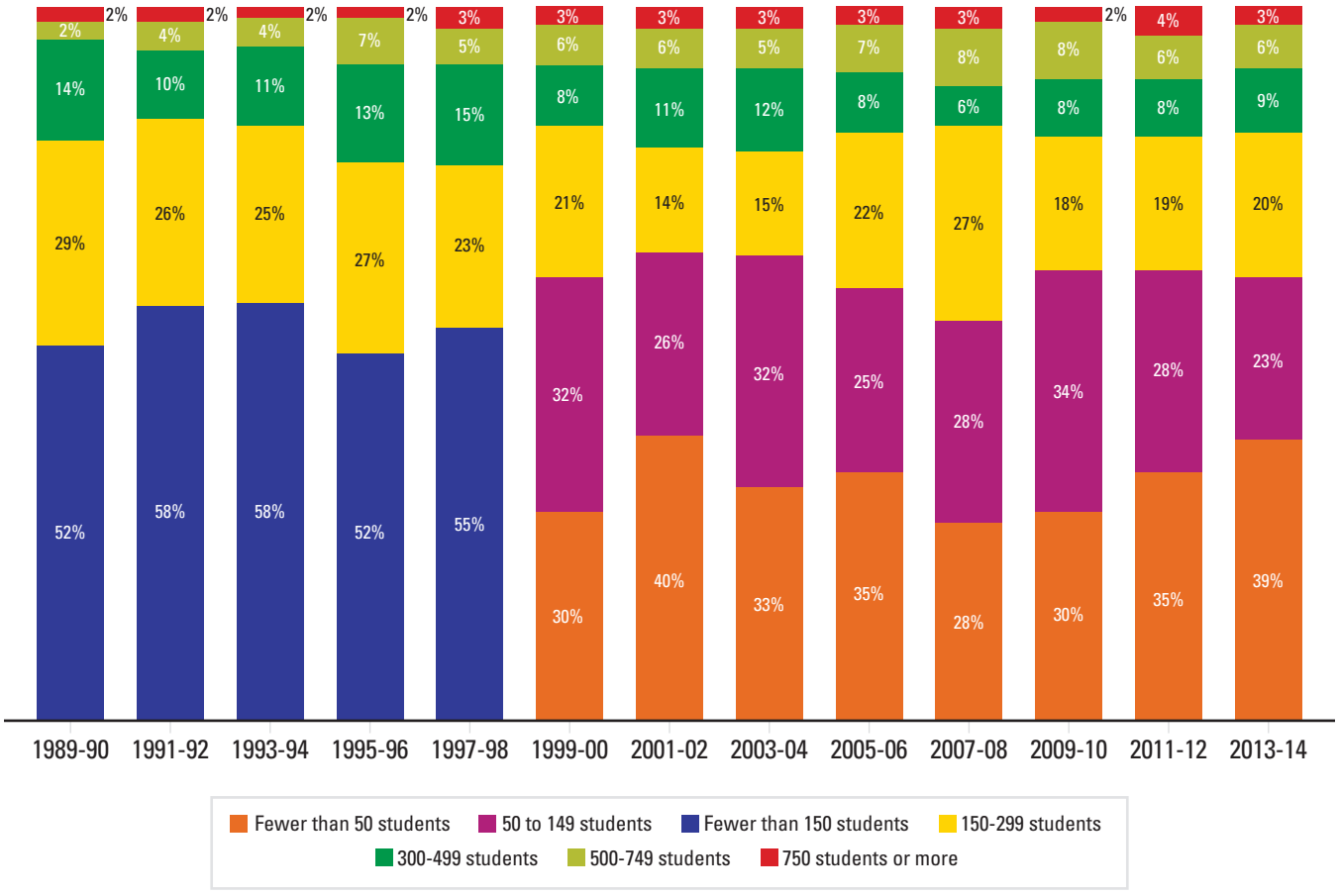


What are the enrollment sizes of the state's private schools?

Nearly two out of five of private schools (39 percent) enroll fewer than 50 students (31 of 79 schools). When including the schools enrolling 50 to 149 students, more than three out of five of Nevada private schools (62 percent) enroll fewer than 150 students (49 of 79 schools).

The proportion of schools enrolling less than 150 students has fluctuated over time but has remained fairly consistent overall. Although there has been some fluctuation, the proportion of schools enrolling 150 to 299 students has decreased over time. The proportion of schools in the largest enrollment category (750 students or more) has increased over time.

Proportion of Nevada Private Schools by Enrollment Size (1989–90 to 2013–14)



What are the most common grade spans for Nevada's private schools?

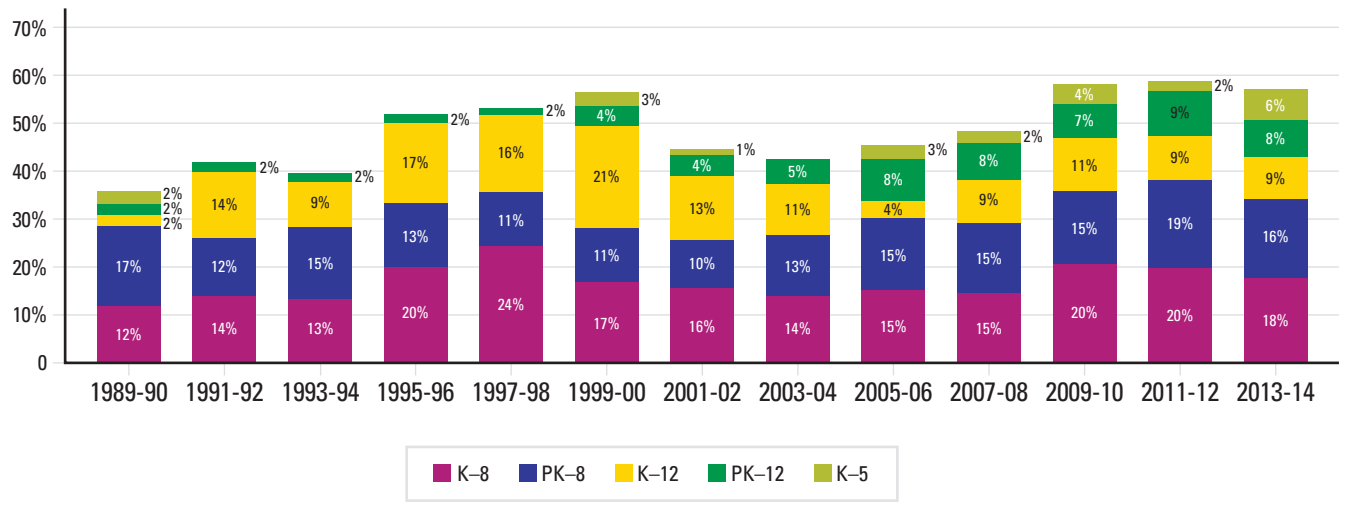
Nearly one out of five (18 percent) of private schools (14 of 79 schools) have the grade span of kindergarten through eighth grade (K–8). The proportion for that span is slightly higher than the proportion of private schools in the state that span PK–8 (16 percent) and significantly higher than the proportion that span K–12, PK–12, and K–5 (9 percent, 8 percent, and 6 percent, respectively). Nevada's private schools offer at least 22 different grade spans.

Although schools with the grade span of K–8 account for nearly one out of five of the private schools in Nevada (18 percent), they used to represent fewer than one out of eight (12 percent). This may be explained by schools serving grades K–8 adding PK, since the percent of schools with this grade span used to be 17 percent (1989–90; 1991–92) but decreased to 16 percent (2013–14).

10 Most Common Grade Spans of Nevada Private Schools (2013–14)

Grade Span	Number of Private Schools	Percent of State's Private Schools
K–8	14	18%
PK–8	13	16%
K–12	7	9%
PK–12	6	8%
K–5	5	6%
PK–1	4	5%
PK–2	4	5%
PK–6	3	4%
K–1	3	4%
9–12	3	4%

Most Common Grade Spans of Nevada Private Schools (1989–90 to 2013–14)



What proportion of the state's private schools also offer prekindergarten? How many schools?

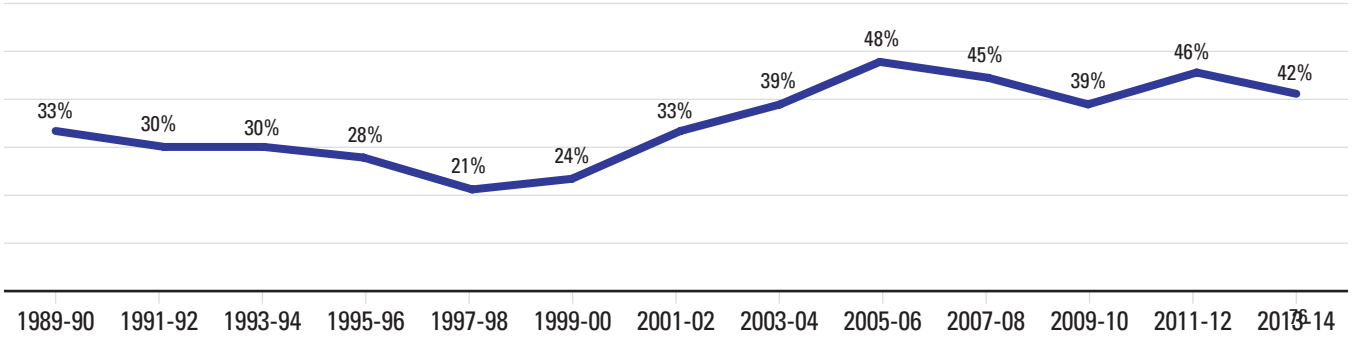
An estimated 33 private schools in Nevada offer prekindergarten, representing more than two out of five of the state's private schools (42 percent). By comparison, 329 public schools in Nevada provide prekindergarten, representing a little more than half of the state's public schools (52 percent).[20]

The share of private schools offering PK jumped from more than one out of five (21 percent) in 1997–98 to nearly half (48 percent) in 2005–06 before fluctuating to what it is today. That suggests an increase in demand of PK over time, which could be influenced by a variety of factors.

Nevada Schools Offering Prekindergarten

Offer PK	Number of Public Schools (2012–13)	Percent of State's Public Schools (2012–13)	Number of Private Schools (2013–14)	Percent of State's Private Schools (2013–14)
Yes	329	52%	33	42%
No	305	48%	46	58%

Proportion of Nevada Private Schools Offering Prekindergarten (1989–90 to 2013–14)



What is the gender makeup of the state's private schools?

Overall, there are slightly more female private school students in Nevada than there are male, but the proportions are an even 50-50. By comparison, there are slightly more male public school students in Nevada (51 percent) than there are female (49 percent).[21]

Nevada Students by Gender

Gender	Number of Private School Students (2011–12)	Percent of State's Private School Students (2011–12)	Number of Public School Students (2012–13)	Percent of State's Public School Students (2012–13)
Female	8,933	50%	216,048	49%
Male	8,878	50%	228,969	51%

What is the racial makeup of the state's private schools?

Nearly two-thirds of Nevada private school students (61 percent) are white compared with 36 percent of Nevada's public school students who identify as white.[22]

From 2005–06 to 2013–14, the population size of Nevada's white private school students fell by 35 percent, compared with Nevada's white public school students decreasing by 15 percent and the overall size of Nevada's white citizenry decreasing by less than 1 percent from 2006 to 2013.

Conversely, the state's number of Asian or Pacific Islander private school students increased by 39 percent, compared with Nevada's Asian or Pacific Islander public school students increasing by 4 percent and the overall size of Nevada's Asian or Pacific Islander citizenry increasing by 47 percent. Meanwhile, Hispanic private school students decreased 24 percent, while the state's population of Hispanic public school students increased 32 percent and the

Continued

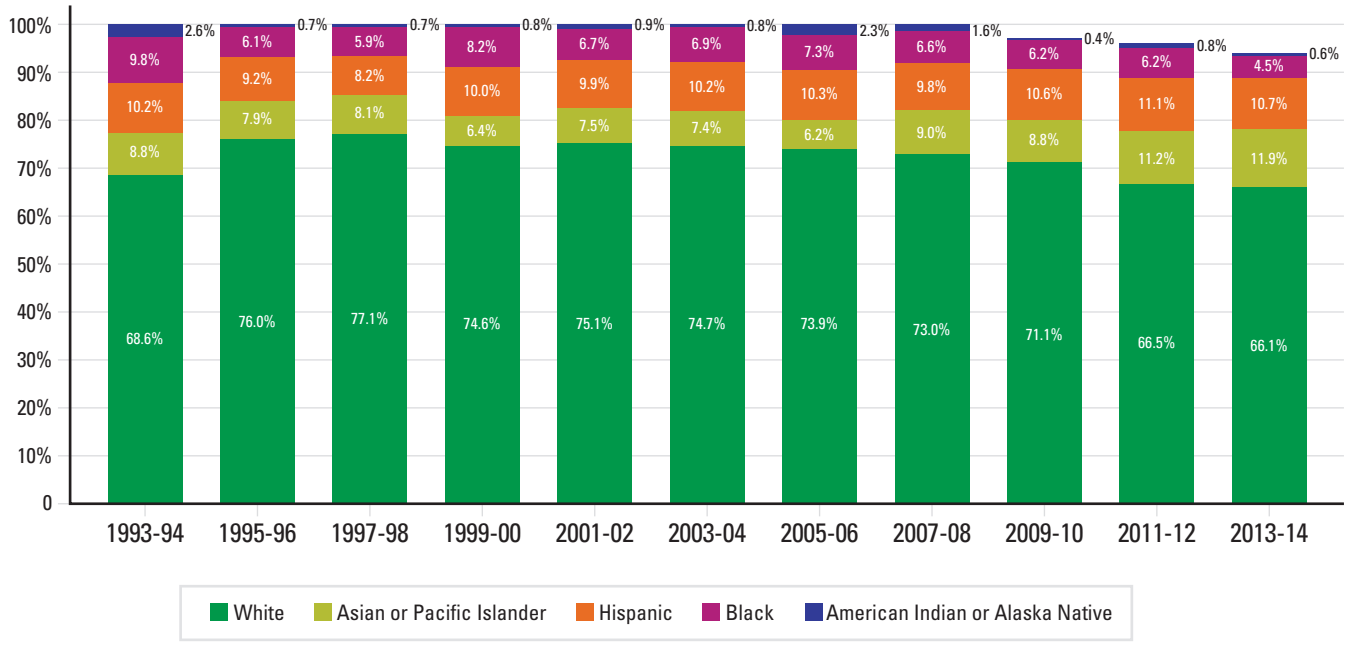
state's Hispanic citizen population increased 26 percent.

During those same timeframes, the state's population of black private school students decreased 55 percent, while the population of similar public school students decreased 2 percent and the population of similar Nevada citizens increased 26 percent. The population of American Indian or Alaska Native private school students decreased 81 percent; the state's population of similar public school students decreased 28 percent, and the population of similar citizens in Nevada decreased 10 percent.[23]

Nevada Students by Race and Ethnicity (2013–14)

	Number of Private School Students	Percent of State's Private School Students	Number of Public School Students	Percent of State's Public School Students
White	9,077	66.1%	162,544	36.0%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1,635	11.9%	31,258	6.9%
Hispanic or Latino	1,470	10.7%	183,212	40.6%
Two or More	839	6.1%	25,139	5.6%
Black	622	4.5%	44,795	9.9%
American Indian/Alaska Native	84	0.6%	4,782	1.1%

Racial and Ethnic Composition of Nevada Private Schools (1993–94 to 2013–14)



How long is each year and day for students attending the state's private schools?

Students attend Nevada's private schools for approximately 6.7 hours per day for 183 days of the year, on average.

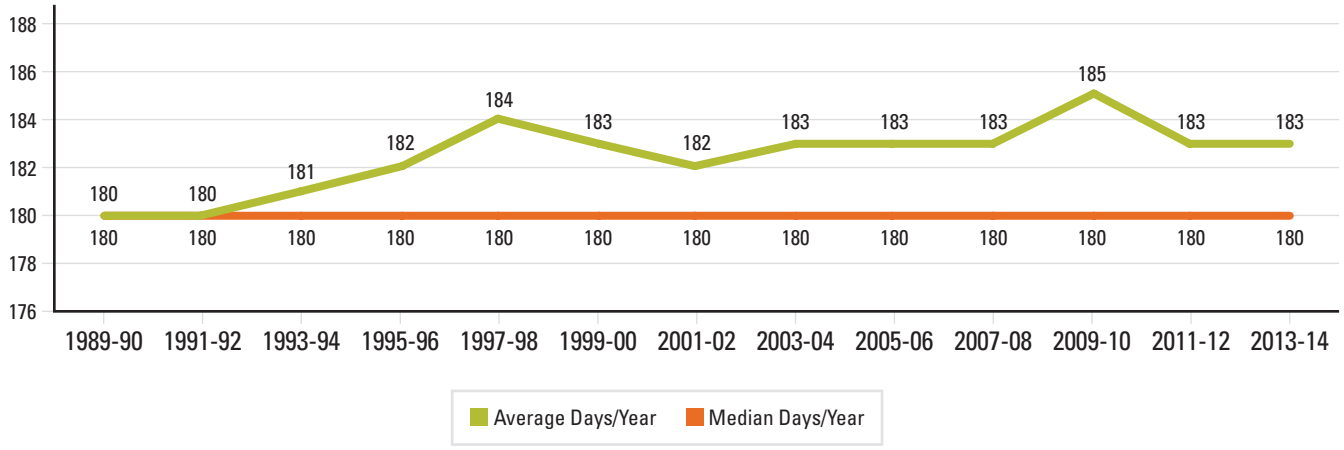
Although the median number of school days per year has remained constant after increasing in the late 90s, the average number has somewhat fluctuated over time. That implies there may be a portion of schools with more than 183 school days per year that have adjusted the length of their school year over time; although that also could be explained by different schools responding to the survey in different years.

Since the early 1990s, private schools have gradually increased the length of their school day by a modest amount. The median number of hours per school day started at 6.5 in the early 1990s and increased to 6.8 per school day in 2009–10 before decreasing to what it is today.

Length of School Year and Day for Nevada Private Schools (2013–14)

	Average	Median
Number of School Days/Year	183	180
Number of School Hours/Day	6.7	6.7

School Days Per Year in Nevada Private Schools (1989–90 to 2013–14)



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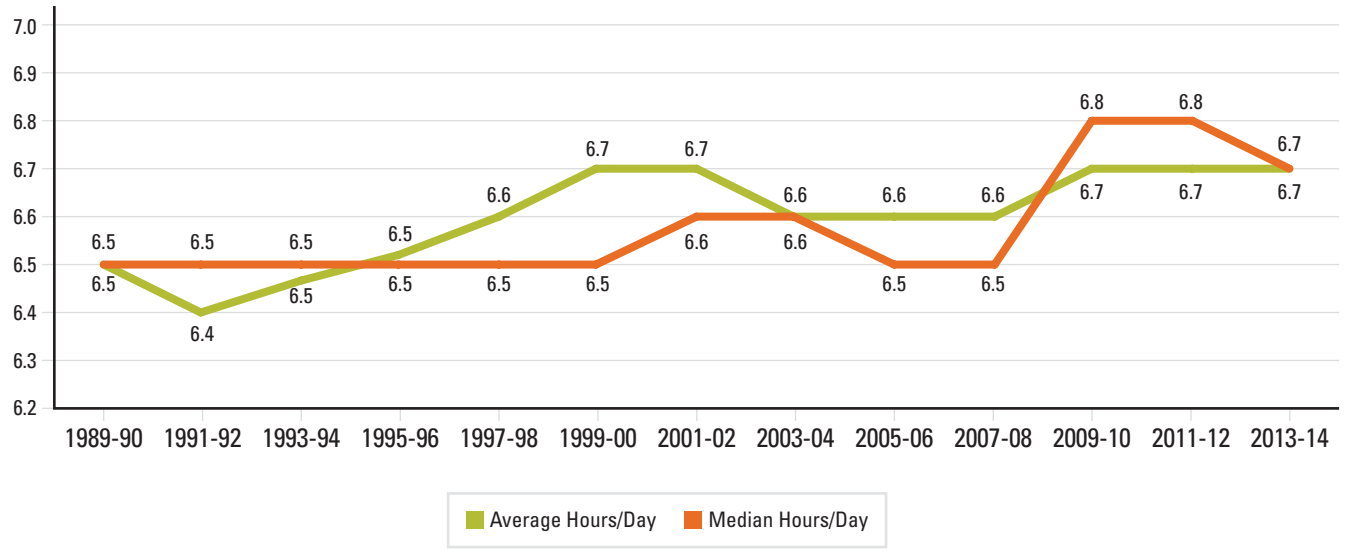
School Hours Per Day in Nevada Private Schools (1989–90 to 2013–14)



Do the state's private schools offer full-day kindergarten, half-day kindergarten, or both?

The majority (76 percent) of Nevada private schools offer only full-day kindergarten (74 of 82 schools in 2011–12).

Although the overall proportion of Nevada private schools that offer kindergarten has remained fairly consistent, many schools seem to have switched from offering only half-day kindergarten to offering only full-day kindergarten.

Nevada Private Schools Kindergarten (2011–12)

	Number of Private Schools	Percent of State's Private Schools
Full-Day	74	76%
Half-Day	5	5%
Both	3	3%

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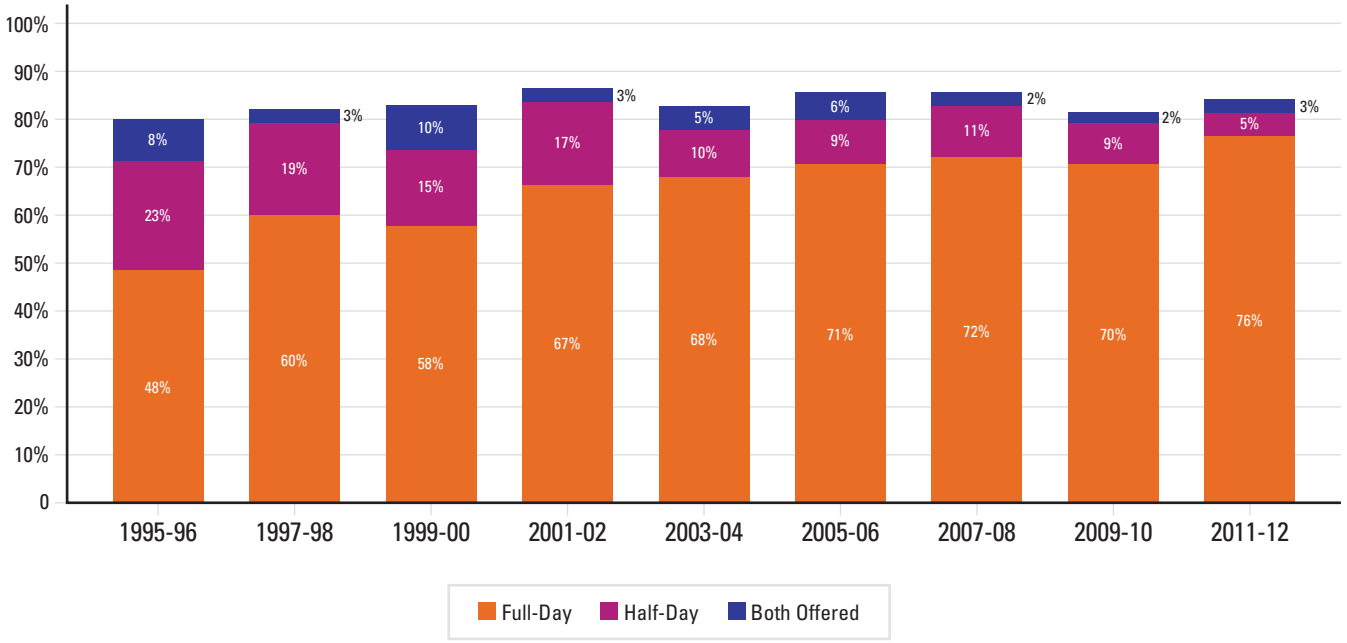
Nevada Private Schools Kindergarten (1995–96 to 2011–12)



What is the average Nevada private and public school class size?

On average, there are more than 11 students per teacher (11.5:1) in Nevada's private schools. However, when considering only full-time equivalent (FTE) teachers, that slightly increases to closer to 12 students per teacher (11.7:1). By comparison, there are more than 20 students per FTE teacher (20.1:1) in Nevada's public schools.[24]

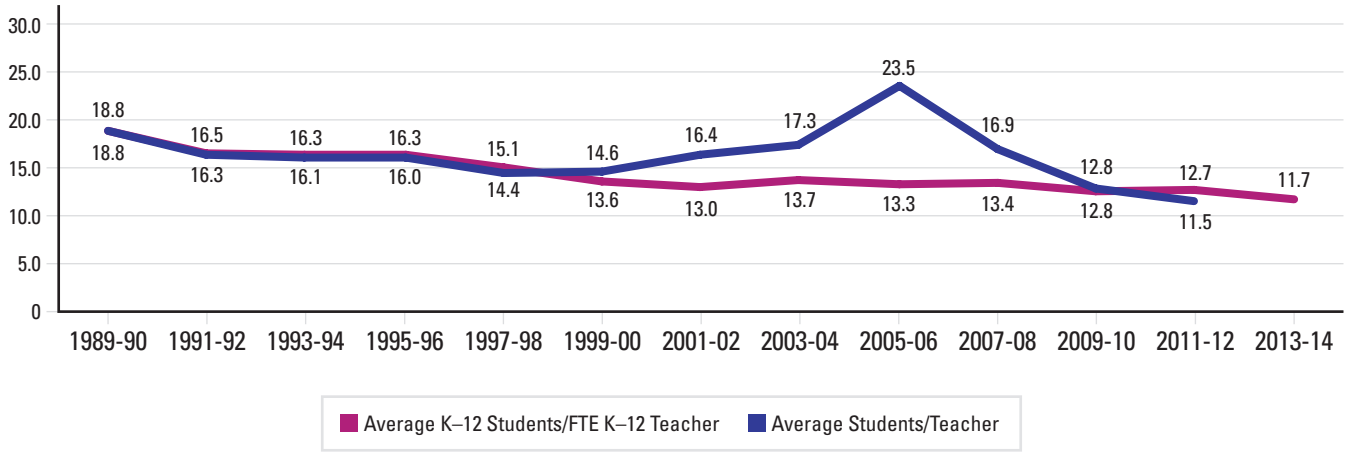
Private schools have gradually increased the number of teachers per student since the early 1990s, including all teachers and their full-time equivalent. Overall, the average number of students per teacher has decreased over time (18.9:1 to 11.5:1), and so has the average number of K–12 students per FTE K–12 teacher (18.8:1 to 11.7:1).

Continued

Student-Teacher Ratios in Nevada Schools

	Average	Median
Number of K–12 Students/FTE K–12 Teacher (Public 2012–13)	20.1	20.0
Number of K–12 Students/FTE K–12 Teacher (Private 2013–14)	11.7	10.8
Number of Students/Teacher (Private 2011–12)	11.5	9.6

Student-Teacher Ratios in Nevada Private Schools (1989–90 to 2013–14)



How many schools are religious and which denominations are represented?

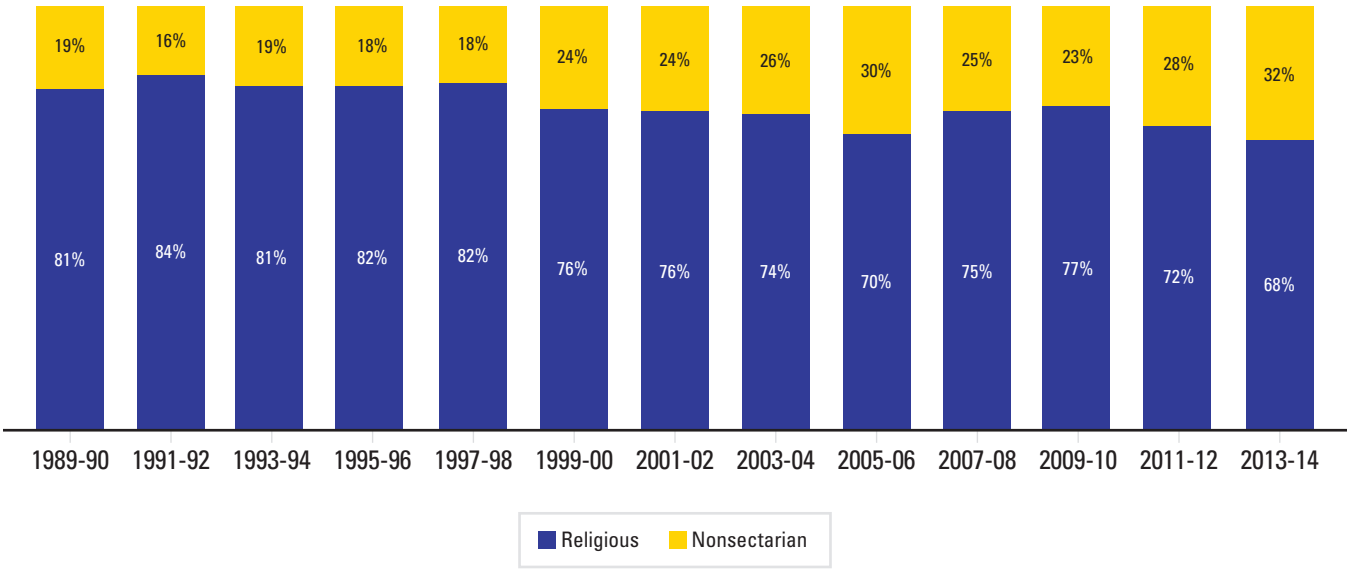
Fewer than seven of 10 Nevada private schools are religious in origin (68 percent; 54 of 79 schools). Nevada's private schools have consistently been mostly religious in origin, although the population of nonsectarian schools has grown from 19 percent to 32 percent of the state's total private school marketplace. Of those schools that are religious, most are non-denominational Christian (22 percent; 12 of 54 schools).

Of the top five denominations, the percent of non-denominational Christian schools is the only one that seems to have significantly grown (2 of 42 schools in 1989–90; 12 of 79 in 2013–14). The percent of Nevada's private schools that self-identify as Roman Catholic has decreased from nearly one out of three in 1989–90 (31 percent; 13 of 42 schools) to a little more than one out of 10 (11 percent; 9 of 79 schools). On average, over time, more than half of the private schools in Nevada (52 percent) have belonged to one of those five denominations: Christian (no specific denomination), Roman Catholic, Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, Seventh-Day Adventist, and Jewish.

Religiosity of Nevada Private Schools (2013–14)

	Number of Private Schools	Percent of State's Private Schools
Religious	54	68%
Nonsectarian	25	32%

Religiosity of Nevada Private Schools (1989–90 to 2013–14)



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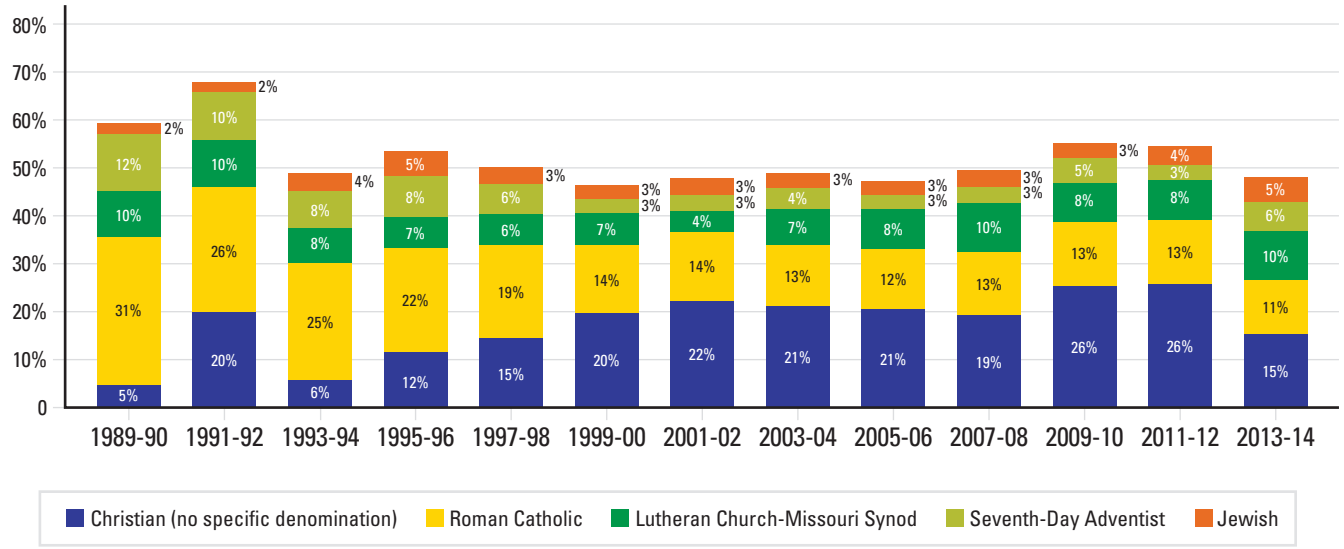
Five Most Common Denominations of Nevada Private Schools (2013–14)

Average	Number of Private Schools	Percent of State's Private Schools
Christian (no specific denomination)	12	15%
Roman Catholic	9	11%
Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod	8	10%
Seventh-Day Adventist	5	6%
Jewish	4	5%

Most Common Denominations of Nevada Private Schools (1989–90 to 2013–14)



How many schools belong to an association, and to what associations do they belong?

More than two out of three Nevada private schools belong to at least one association (70 percent; 55 of 79 schools). Of those schools, approximately one out of four belong to the Association of Christian Schools International (25 percent; 14 of 55 schools).[25]

Of Nevada private schools' top three individual association memberships in 2013–14, the proportion of schools belonging to the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) has grown the most over time, from 10 percent in 1989–90 (4 of 42 schools) to 18 percent (14 of 79 schools). The percentage of schools belonging to the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) has decreased the most over time, from nearly one out of three schools in 1989–90 (31 percent; 13 of 42 schools) to a little more than one out of 10 schools (11 percent; 9 of 79 schools). ACSI, NCEA, and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) have represented more than one out of three private schools in Nevada in each school year analyzed.

Because the PSS data only covers respondents, it is important to note that these numbers may not accurately reflect the associations' memberships. In 2014–15, ACSI had 21 members and NCEA had 13 members.[26]

Association Affiliation of Nevada Private Schools (2013–14)

Affiliation	Number of Private Schools	Percent of State's Private Schools
Belong to ≥ 1 Association	55	70%
Belong to 0 Associations	24	30%

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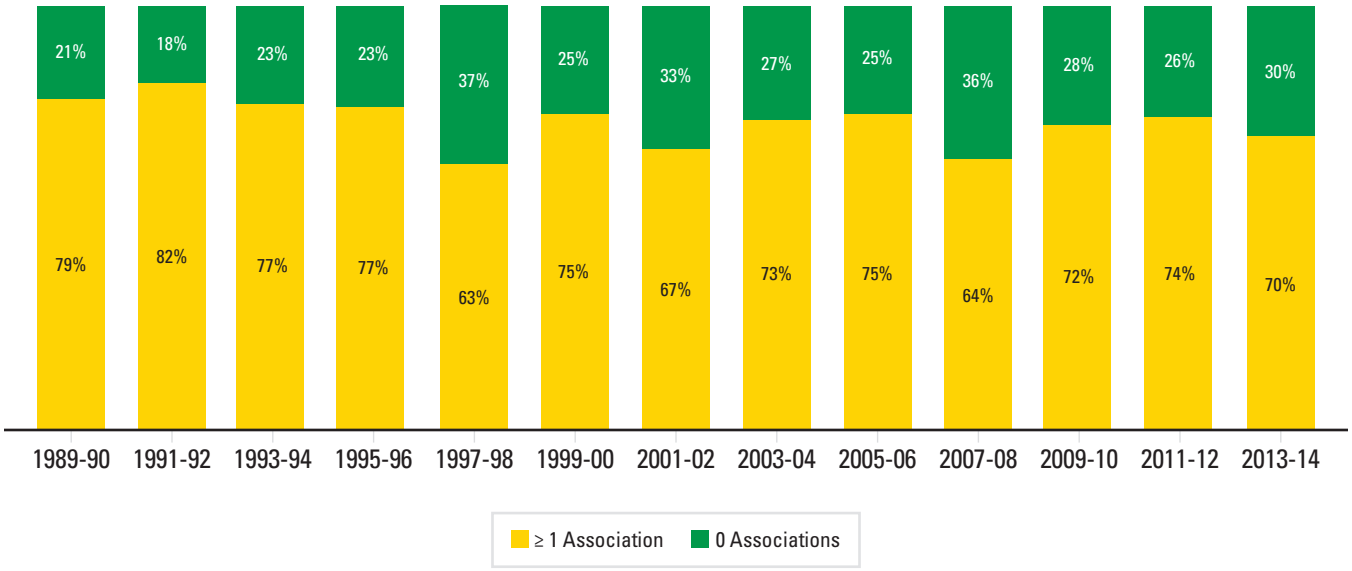
Association Affiliations of Nevada Private Schools (1989–90 to 2013–14)



10 Most Common Association Affiliations of Nevada Private Schools (2013–14)

Association	Number of Private Schools	Percent of State's Private Schools
Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)	14	18%
National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA)	9	11%
National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)	6	8%
National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS)	5	6%
General Conference of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church (GCSDAC)	4	5%
American Montessori Society (AMS)	3	4%
State or regional independent school association	3	4%
Accelerated Christian Education (ACE) or (School of Tomorrow)	2	3%
Association of Christian Teachers and Schools (ACTS)	2	3%
National Independent Private School Association (NIPSA)	2	3%

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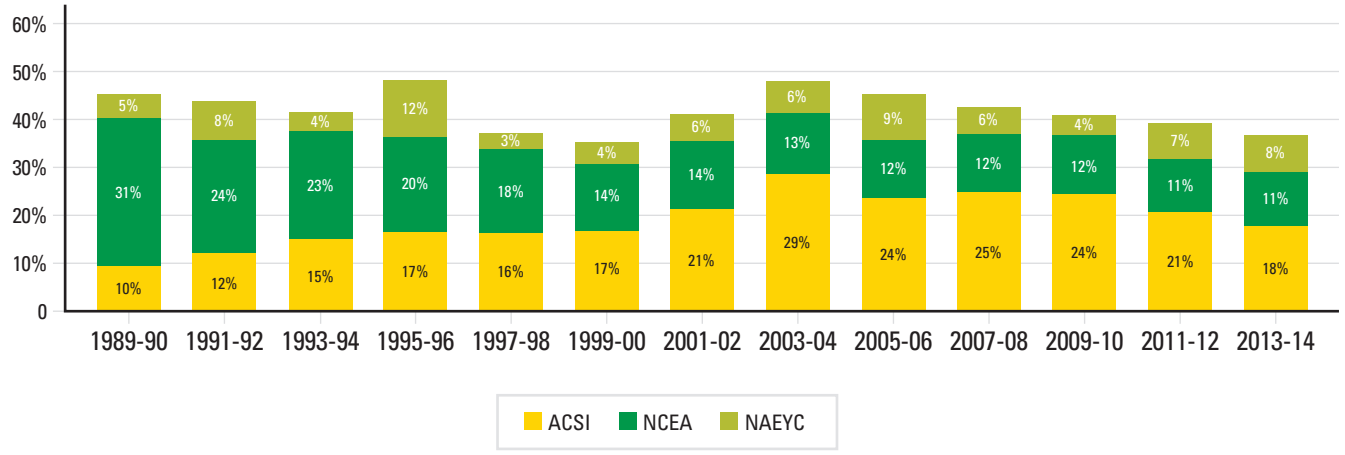
Most Common Affiliations of Nevada Private Schools (1989–90 to 2013–14)

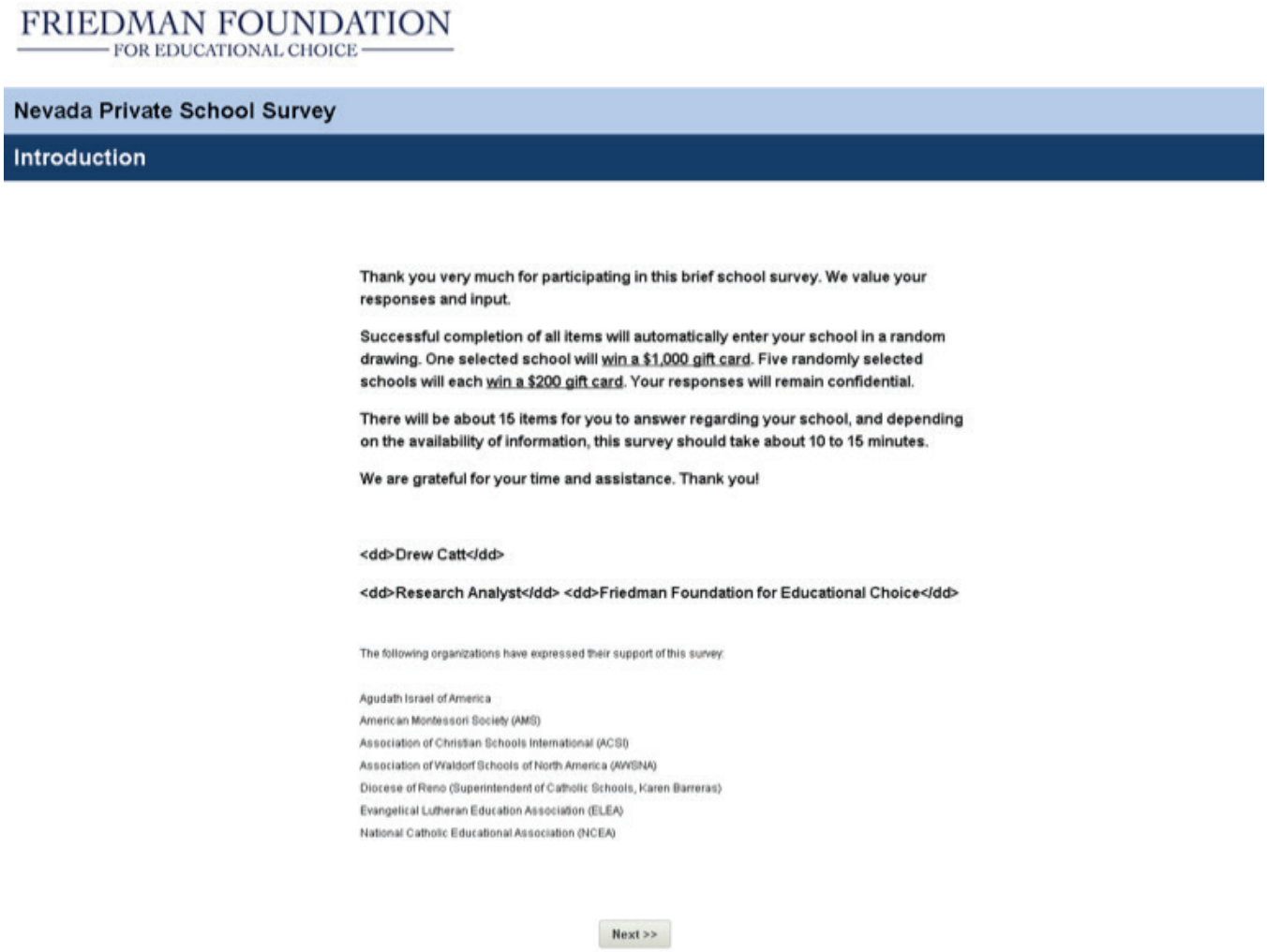


APPENDIX A: Response Rates Using AAPOR RR2

Question/Item	Number of Respondents	Response Rate
Contact Information	**65**	**44.2%**
Enrollment and Capacity	**63**	**42.9%**
Prekindergarten	41	27.9%
Kindergarten	55	37.4%
Elementary School	42	28.6%
Middle School	30	20.4%
High School	19	12.9%
Ungraded	3	2.0%
School Tuition and Fees	**62**	**42.2%**
Pre-kindergarten	39	26.5%
Kindergarten	54	36.7%
Elementary School	42	28.6%
Middle School	30	20.4%
High School	19	12.9%
School Fees	**61**	**41.5%**
Registration/Application	56	38.1%
Textbooks	20	13.6%
Technology	10	6.8%
Transportation	1	0.7%
Uniforms	7	4.8%
Other	12	8.2%
Financial Aid	**51**	**34.7%**
Education Savings Accounts	**61**	**41.5%**
Tax-Credit Scholarships	**60**	**40.8%**
School Vouchers	**61**	**41.5%**
Rules and Regulations	**58**	**39.5%**
Testing and Accountability	56	38.1%
Paperwork and Reporting	55	37.4%
Financial Reporting and Disclosure	57	38.8%
Student Eligibility for Program	57	38.8%
Building Safety and Security	58	39.5%
Tuition and Fees	56	38.1%
Teacher/Staff Certification and Licensure	57	38.8%
School Eligibility for Program	55	37.4%
Curriculum and Instruction	57	38.8%
School Admissions and Enrollment Guidelines	56	38.1%
Accommodations for Students with Special Needs	54	36.7%
Other	6	4.1%
Standardized Assessments/Testing	**59**	**40.1%**
Grade Levels Tested	47	32.0%
Tests Administering	48	32.7%
Special Education	**59**	**40.1%**
Percentage	41	27.9%
COMPLETED SURVEY	**58**	**39.5%**

APPENDIX B: Friedman Survey Screenshots

Required answers are indicated where applicable.



FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION
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Nevada Private School Survey

Introduction

Thank you very much for participating in this brief school survey. We value your responses and input.

Successful completion of all items will automatically enter your school in a random drawing. One selected school will win a $1,000 gift card. Five randomly selected schools will each win a $200 gift card. Your responses will remain confidential.

There will be about 15 items for you to answer regarding your school, and depending on the availability of information, this survey should take about 10 to 15 minutes.

We are grateful for your time and assistance. Thank you!

<dd>Drew Catt</dd>

<dd>Research Analyst</dd> <dd>Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice</dd>

The following organizations have expressed their support of this survey:

Agudath Israel of America
American Montessori Society (AMS)
Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)
Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA)
Diocese of Reno (Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Karen Barreras)
Evangelical Lutheran Education Association (ELEA)
National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA)

Next >>

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Nevada Private School Survey

Basic Information

Please enter the name of your school.

Please provide your school's name and contact information.

School Name

Please enter the name of your Town/City.

Street Address1
Street Address2
Town/City
County
ZIP Code
Phone
Web Site Address

<< Back Next >>

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Nevada Private School Survey

Enrollment and Capacity Information

On the next page, please enter your enrollment and capacity, by grade range (PK, K, 1-5, 6-8, 9-12), for the 2014-15 school year.

We define "capacity" as the total number of student seats in your school, including *both* currently occupied *and* currently vacant seats.

Please respond for all levels that apply.

NOTE: Capacity will be greater than or equal to enrollment for the school.

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Nevada Private School Survey

Enrollment and Capacity Information

13% completed so far...

This question requires an answer.

••••••••Total Enrolled••••••••

Pre-Kindergarten

Kindergarten

Elementary School (1-5)

Middle School (6-8)

High School (9-12)

Ungraded

This question requires an answer.

••••••••Total Capacity••••••••

Pre-Kindergarten

Kindergarten

Elementary School (1-5)

Middle School (6-8)

High School (9-12)

Ungraded

Comments?

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Nevada Private School Survey

School Tuition and Fees

19% completed so far...

This question requires an answer.

For this year, what is the *annual average tuition and fees* at your school (not including tuition assistance or discounts)? Please respond for all levels that apply.

(feel free to round to nearest $100)

Pre-Kindergarten

Kindergarten

Elementary School (1-5)

Middle School (6-8)

High School (9-12)

Comments?

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Nevada Private School Survey

School Fees

25% completed so far...

Some private schools separate certain fees from the tuition costs. If your school does so, generally how much is charged *annually* for each of the following fee categories?

Registration/Application	
Textbooks	
Technology	
Transportation	
Uniforms	
Other (please specify category)	

Comments?

<< Back Next >>

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Nevada Private School Survey

Financial Aid

31% completed so far...

For this year, what is the *annual average amount* of tuition assistance (including discounts) per student at your school?

(feel free to round to nearest $100)

Comments?

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Nevada Private School Survey

Financial Aid

38% completed so far...

Approximately what percentage (%) of your school's students receive some form of financial assistance, including discounts?

(if necessary, feel free to round to nearest 5% or 10%)

Comments?

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Nevada Private School Survey

Education Savings Accounts

44% completed so far...

Some states allow parents to take their child out of a public district or charter schol and receive a payment into a government-authorized "education savings account" - often called an "ESA" - with restricted, but multiple uses. Parents can then use these funds to pay for private school tuition, virtual education programs, private tutoring, and saving for future college expenses, among others.

The State of Nevada may consider a "school choice" proposal to establish ESAs, allowing parents the option of sending their child to the school of their choice, whether that school is public or private, including both religious and non-religious schools.

Depending on regulations and what would be required of schools, would your school be interested in participating in a school choice program where the state funds ESAs? Your response is not binding. Please indicate one:

- ○ Yes
- ○ Probably Yes
- ○ Maybe
- ○ Probably Not
- ○ No

Comments?

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Nevada Private School Survey

Tax-Credit Scholarships

50% completed so far...

Some states give tax credits to businesses if they contribute money to nonprofit organizations that distribute private school scholarships.

Depending on regulations and what would be required of schools, would your school be interested in participating in this kind of "tax-credit scholarship" program? Your response is not binding. Please indicate one:

- ○ Yes
- ○ Probably Yes
- ○ Maybe
- ○ Probably Not
- ○ No

Comments?

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FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION
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Nevada Private School Survey

School Vouchers

56% completed so far...

The State of Nevada may consider a "school choice" proposal to establish vouchers to go directly to students, allowing parents the option of sending their child to the school of their choice, whether that school is public or private, including both religious and non-religious schools.

Depending on regulations and what would be required of schools, would your school be interested in participating in such a school choice program? Your response is not binding. Please indicate one:

- ○ Yes
- ○ Probably Yes
- ○ Maybe
- ○ Probably Not
- ○ No

Comments?

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Nevada Private School Survey

Rules and Regulations

63% completed so far...

What program rules or regulations would concern your school the most? On a scale from 1 (very low concern) to 5 (very high concern), please rate your concern for regulation in each of the following areas.

(not all categories need to be rated)

	Very Low	Somewhat Low	Moderate	Somewhat High	Very High
Testing & Accountability	○	○	○	○	○
Paperwork & Reporting	○	○	○	○	○
Financial Reporting & Disclosure	○	○	○	○	○
Student Eligibility for Program (e.g. income limit)	○	○	○	○	○
Building Safety & Security	○	○	○	○	○
Tuition & Fees	○	○	○	○	○
Teacher/Staff Certification & Licensure	○	○	○	○	○
School Eligibility for Program (e.g. register with state)	○	○	○	○	○
Curriculum & Instruction	○	○	○	○	○
School Admissions & Enrollment Guidelines	○	○	○	○	○
Accommodations for Students with Special Needs	○	○	○	○	○
Other (please describe below)	○	○	○	○	○

Other area:

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Nevada Private School Survey

Standardized Assessments/Testing

70% completed so far...

This question requires an answer.

Does your school administer some type of norm-referenced assessment (i.e. standardized test) to measure student academic performance?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

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Nevada Private School Survey

Standardized Assessments/Testing

75% completed so far...

Do you test all, most, or a few grade levels?

- ○ All
- ○ Most
- ○ Few

Comments?

This question requires an answer.

This school year, will you be administering the Smarter Balanced Assessment and/or ACT, or some other national norm-referenced test?

- ○ Smarter Balanced Assessment only
- ○ ACT only
- ○ Smarter Balanced Assessment + ACT
- ○ Smarter Balanced Assessment + Other(s)
- ○ ACT + Other(s)
- ○ Smarter Balanced Assessment + ACT + Other(s)
- ○ Other(s) only

If "Other," please specify:

Comments?

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Nevada Private School Survey

Special Education

81% completed so far...

This question requires an answer.

Does your school serve students who are considered as having special needs*?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

*Students within this population may have: autism, deaf-blindness, developmental delay, hearing impairment, intellectual disability, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, serious emotional disturbance, specific learning disability, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury, visual impairment, or other health impairments.

Comments?

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Nevada Private School Survey

Special Education

88% completed so far...

Approximately what percentage (%) of your school's students are considered as having special needs*?

(if necessary, feel free to round the to nearest percentage point)

*Students within this population may have: autism, deaf-blindness, developmental delay, hearing impairment, intellectual disability, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, serious emotional disturbance, specific learning disability, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury, visual impairment, or other health impairments.

Comments?

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Nevada Private School Survey

Final Comments?

94% completed so far...

We are close to finishing this survey.

Please provide us with any more details of your school's interests, priorities, or concerns regarding possible participation in a school choice program.

If you have nothing more to share at this time, please go to the next page to complete the survey.

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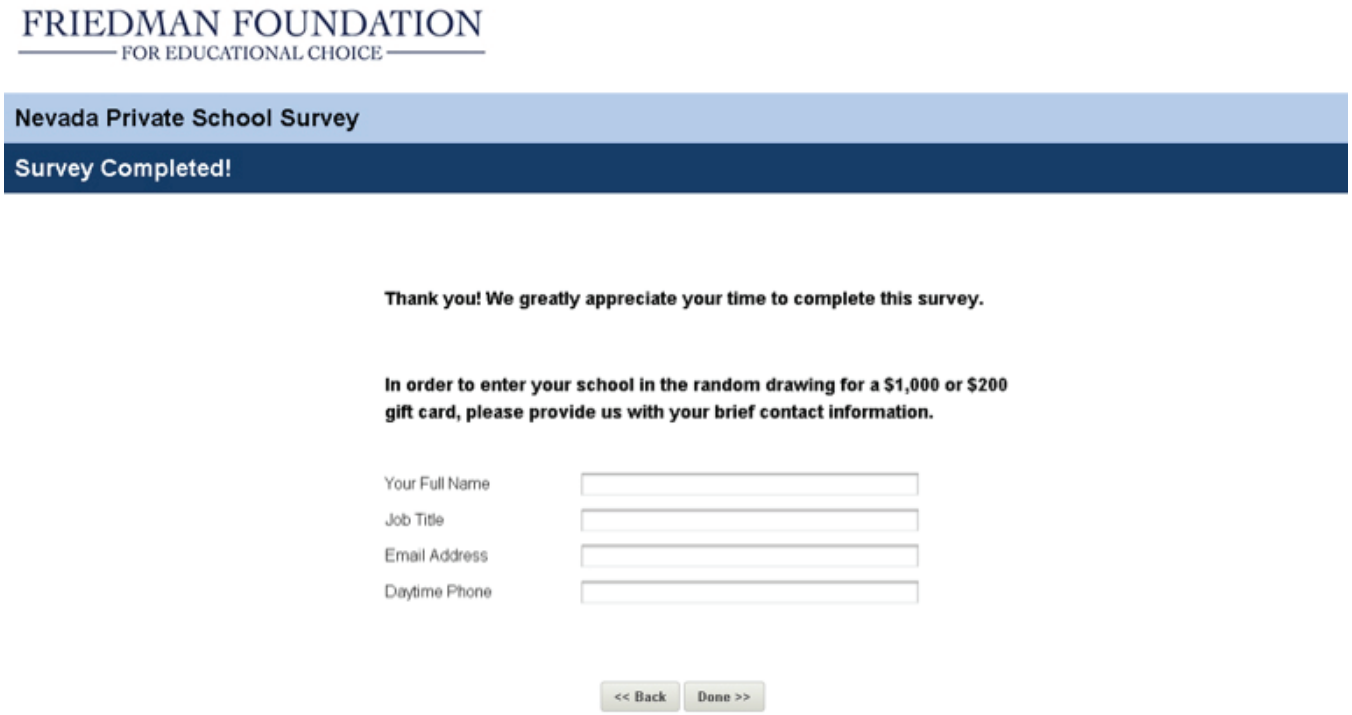
FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION
FOR EDUCATIONAL CHOICE
Nevada Private School Survey
Survey Completed!
Thank you! We greatly appreciate your time to complete this survey.
In order to enter your school in the random drawing for a $1,000 or $200 gift card, please provide us with your brief contact information.
Your Full Name
Job Title
Email Address
Daytime Phone
<< Back
Done >>

APPENDIX C: PSS Respondent K-Terminal Schools

When included in the overall universe of Nevada private schools that responded to the most recent PSS survey, kindergarten-terminal (PK–K or K only) schools account for 32 percent of the total. Those 37 schools:

- Mostly serve both prekindergarteners and kindergarteners (92 percent; 34 of 37 schools),
- Serve more prekindergarteners than kindergarteners,
    - 78 percent of students served are prekindergarteners
    - 22 percent of students served are kindergarteners
- Are mostly in Las Vegas (38 percent; 14 of 37 schools) and in Clark County (62 percent; 23 of 37 schools),
- Are mostly in a city (65 percent; 24 of 37 schools),
- Have an average enrollment of 76 students and a median enrollment of 73 students,
- Serve mostly white students (65 percent),
- Serve students for an average of 6.3 hours per day for an average of 183 days per year,
- Have an average of 12.7 students per teacher and a median of 11.2 students per teacher,
- Are predominately nonsectarian (73 percent; 27 of 37 schools), and
    - Three schools are Christian (no specific denomination)
    - Two schools belong to the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod
    - One school is Baptist
    - One school is Episcopal
    - One school belongs to the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
    - One school is Presbyterian
    - One school is Methodist
- More than two-fifths belong to at least one association (43 percent; 16 of 37 schools).
    - 22 percent (8 of 37 schools) belong to the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
    - 8 percent (3 of 37 schools) belong to the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)

NOTES

1. Michelle Rindels, "Sandoval Signs Bill Creating Private-School Scholarships," *Las Vegas Sun*, Apr. 13, 2015, http://lasvegassun.com/news/2015/apr/13/sandoval-signs-bill-creating-private-school-schola.

2. Clint Bolick, "Nevada Places a Bet on School Choice," *Wall Street Journal*, June 14, 2015, http://www.wsj.com/articles/nevada-places-a-bet-on-school-choice-1434319588.

3. The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *The ABCs of School Choice: The Comprehensive Guide to Every Private School Choice Program in America*, 2015 ed. (Indianapolis: Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, 2015), p. 3, http://www.edchoice.org/ABCs.

4. See note 2 above.

5. "Private School Universe Survey (PSS)," National Center for Education Statistics, accessed Mar. 12, 2015, http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/index.asp.

6. US Dept. of Education, PSS Private School Universe Survey data for the 2013-14 school year, http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/privateschoolsearch.

7. Stephen P. Broughman and Nancy L. Swaim, *Characteristics of Private Schools in the United States: Results From the 2011-12 Private School Universe Survey*, NCES 2013-316 (Washington, DC: US Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics), table 15, p. 20, http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2013/2013316.pdf.

8. US Dept. of Education, PSS Private School Universe Survey data for the 2013-14 school year, http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/privateschoolsearch. "Ungraded students are those who are not assigned to a particular grade level (kindergarten, first grade, second grade, etc.) For example, special education centers and alternative schools often classify their students as ungraded. Students in Montessori schools are also considered ungraded if the school assigns them to 'primary' and 'intermediate' levels instead of specific grades." Broughman and Swaim, *Results From the 2011-12 Private School Universe Survey*, pp. A-3-4.

9. "A school is kindergarten-terminal (K-terminal) if kindergarten is the highest grade offered at the school." Broughman and Swaim, *Results From the 2011-12 Private School Universe Survey*, p. A-1.

10. Author's calculations; "Nevada Private Schools," Nev. Dept. of Education, accessed June 15, 2015, http://www.doe.nv.gov/Private_Schools.

11. This is only the number of respondents that entered at least enrollment and capacity data. There were 58 respondents that completed the entire survey. Five schools submitted multiple responses and eight duplicates were removed from the dataset. 15 K-terminal schools responded to the survey and are included in the Friedman Foundation analysis section unless noted otherwise.

12. The Friedman Foundation incentivized schools to complete the survey by entering them into a randomized drawing to win a $1,000 gift card or one of five $200 gift cards.

13. Due to rounding, percentage totals for a given question may be slightly greater or less than 100 percent.

14. Students with special needs was defined on the survey as students that may have autism, deaf-blindness, developmental delay, hearing impairment, intellectual disability, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, serious emotional disturbance, specific learning disability, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury, visual impairment, or other health impairments.

15. US Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "Local Education Agency (School District) Universe Survey", 2012-13 v.1a, "Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Survey", 2012-13 v.1a, and "State Nonfiscal Public Elementary/Secondary Education Survey", 2012-13 v.1a, accessed June 18, 2015 via ElS*i table*Generator, http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/elsi/tableGenerator.aspx.

16. One school that said they administer a norm-referenced test did not respond to the question asking how many grade levels are tested. Seven schools did not list which test is administered.

17. Clark County accounted for 62 of 97 PSS respondents we looked at in 2011-12, 59 of 98 in 2009-10, 51 of 89 in 2007-08, 68 of 106 in 2005-06, 58 of 94 in 2003-04, 53 of 90 in 2001-02, 39 of 71 in 1999-2000, 37 of 62 in 1997-98, 32 of 60 in 1995-96, 30 of 53 in 1993-94, 26 of 50 in 1991-92, and 27 of 42 in 1989-90. Washoe County accounted for 19 of 97 PSS respondents we looked at in 2011-12, 22 of 98 in 2009-10, 22 of 89 in 2007-08, 25 of 106 in 2005-06, 21 of 94 in 2003-04, 23 of 90 in 2001-02, 21 of 71 in 1999-2000, 15 of 62 in 1997-98, 16 of 60 in 1995-96, 13 of 53 in 1993-94, 14 of 50 in 1991-92, and 9 of 42 in 1989-90.

18. US Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Survey," 2012-13 v.1a and "State Nonfiscal Public Elementary/Secondary Education Survey," 2012-13 v.1a, accessed June 17, 2015 via ElS*i table*Generator, http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/elsi/tableGenerator.aspx; Broughman, *Private School Universe Survey, 1993-94*, NCES 96-143 (Washington, DC: US Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1996), table 17, p. 46, http://nces.ed.gov/pubs/96143.pdf; Broughman and Lenore A. Colaciello, *Private School Universe Survey, 1995-96*, NCES 98-229 (Washington, DC: US Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1998), table 17, p. 22, http://nces.ed.gov/pubs98/98229.pdf; Broughman and Colaciello, *Private School Universe Survey, 1997-98*, NCES 1999-319 (Washington, DC: US Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics), table 22, p. 27, http://nces.ed.gov/pubs99/1999319.pdf; Broughman and Colaciello, *Private School Universe Survey: 1999-2000*, NCES 2001-330 (Washington, DC: US Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics), table 22, p. 26, http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2001/2001330.pdf; US Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, "Private School Universe Survey (PSS) – Data Tables – High School Graduates," accessed June 17, 2015, http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/tables1112.asp.

19. Author's calculations; Ibid.

20. Does not include four PK-only, four K-terminal schools, or 11 schools without this data. "Search for Public Schools," National Center for Education Statistics, accessed June 17, 2015, http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/schoolsearch/index.asp.

21. US Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Survey," 2011-12 v.1a and "State Nonfiscal Public Elementary/Secondary Education Survey," 2012-13 v.1a, accessed June 17, 2015 via ElS*i table*Generator, http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/elsi/tableGenerator.aspx. Male and female are the only options presented on the federal surveys.

22. Author's calculations; "Nevada Annual Reports of Accountability," Nev. Dept. of Education, accessed June 17, 2015, http://www.nevadareportcard.com/di.

23. Ibid.; "American FactFinder," United States Census Bureau, 2006 3CS and 2013 ACS 1-year estimates, table DP05, http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml.

24. Does not include four PK-only, four K-terminal schools, or 42 schools without this data. "Search for Public Schools," National Center for Education Statistics.

25. The only specific school associations that the PSS has as options are ACE, the American Association of Christian Schools (AACS), ACSI, the Association of Christian Teachers and Schools (ACTS), the Association of Classical and Christian Schools (ACCS), Christian Schools International (CSI), the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association (ELEA), Friends Council on Education (FCE), the General Conference of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church (GCSDAC), the Islamic School League of America (ISLA), the Jesuit Secondary Education Association (JSEA), the National Association of Episcopal Schools (NAES), NCEA, the National Christian School Association (NCSA), the National Society for Hebrew Day Schools (Torah U'Mesorah), Oral Roberts University Educational Fellowship (ORUEF), The Jewish Community Day School Association (SSDSA), the Solomon Schechter Day Schools Association (SSDSA), the Southern Baptist Association of Christian Schools (SBACS), the American Montessori Society (AMS), Association Montessori International (AMI), the Association of Military Colleges and Schools (AMCS), the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA), the National Association of Private Special Education Centers (NAPSEC), the European Council for International Schools (ECIS), the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the National Association of Laboratory Schools (NALS), the National Coalition of Girls' Schools (NCGS), the Alternative School Network (ASN), the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), the National Coalition of Alternative Community Schools (NCACS), the National Independent Private School Association (NIPSA), and The Association of Boarding Schools (TABS).

26. "Find a School," Association of Christian Schools International, accessed June 17, 2015, http://www.acsi.org/member-search/index; "School and Diocesan Locator," National Catholic Educational Association, accessed June 17, 2015, http://www.ncea.org/data-information/school-diocesan-locator.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Andrew D. Catt is the Research and Policy Associate for the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice. In that role, Drew conducts analyses on private school choice programs and supports quality control as the Foundation's research and data verifier.

Prior to joining the Friedman Foundation in May 2013, Drew served as the Program Associate for The Clowes Fund, a private family foundation located in Indianapolis that awards grants to nonprofits in Seattle, Greater Indianapolis, and Northern New England.

Drew graduated from Vanderbilt University in 2008 with a bachelor's degree in Human and Organizational Development, specializing in Leadership and Organizational Effectiveness. While at Vanderbilt, Drew served as Research Assistant for North Star Destination Strategies, a community branding organization. During that time, Drew also researched the effects of homeschooling on socialization.

Drew obtained his master's degree in Nonprofit Management at Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs in Indianapolis. He also completed his Master of Arts in Philanthropic Studies through the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy. While in graduate school, Drew's research focused on teacher performance incentives and cross-sector collaboration.

Drew is a native of central Indiana and currently resides in downtown Indianapolis.

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The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice is committed to research that adheres to high scientific standards, and matters of methodology and transparency are taken seriously at all levels of our organization. We are dedicated to providing high-quality information in a transparent and efficient manner.

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The author welcomes any and all questions related to methods and findings.

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