



## Teacher Training and Improvement

If there were ever an institution that ought to be dedicated to continuous learning, education is it! The district believes that ongoing professional learning is critically important. The field of educational research is constantly evolving, and those involved in the education professions are responsible for meeting the recommendations of current research by constantly updating and improving their practices.



Each school has weekly professional development training based on the latest research and professional learning available in the field. The training is tied to student assessments and focused on improving outcomes for the students.



Through grant funding, each school facilitates summer planning time for teachers to ensure that the guaranteed curriculum is rigorous, relevant, and meaningful.



Through grant funding, four instructional coaches work with teachers to provide peer to peer feedback regarding effective learning. The Great Teachers and Leaders Fund provides \$98,000 to train and mentor new teachers.



Each school utilizes Northern Nevada Regional Professional Development program (NNRPDP) staff as extra supports to observe and provide feedback to teachers, deliver professional development, and serve on school-level decision making and advisory committees.



Capital Projects  
Grants & Categorical Funds,  
Teacher training and improvement  
**WHITE PINE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**



## Capital Projects

By statute, capital funds can only be spent on facilities and infrastructure. The district has committed to upgrading facilities to every degree possible within its limited capital funds. These are a few of the highlights.

- **Greenhouse at Lund and WPHS.** Funded through the CTE Competitive Grants. Allows for improvement and expansion of the Agriculture programs. Students gain exposure to real-life applications in agriculture as well as in business, with the opportunity to sell their products to other students and community members.
- **Second Gym at WPHS.** For years, the winter sports season has seen teams practicing at strenuous hours, and other teams forfeiting time in the gym altogether. This project allows wrestlers to have a home on campus and ample time for teams to practice and still get home at a reasonable hour. Having two gyms on campus also presents opportunities to host volleyball and basketball tournaments, which will bring additional revenue into the community.
- **Health Science Addition at WPHS.** Funded at \$2.1 million through the Pennington Foundation. The Health Science program at WPHS produces 10-15 students each year who earn their CNA license and excel on the state's Employability Skills Assessment. This gives students and the community a state-of-the-art training facility.
- **Safe System Digital Cameras in Classrooms.** Funded through capital improvement dollars as part of the Safety and Facilities Committee's initiative to make our students the safest in Nevada! Safety is the first condition necessary for learning to occur.

## Grants & Categories

Thanks to the efforts of outstanding employees, the district has been extraordinarily successful in applying for and receiving categorical funds over the last two years. Categorical funds can only be used for the purposes outlined in the grants, and not to replace funds in the general budget.

- **Read by Grade 3 (\$599,000).** Allows for literacy specialists to work one on one with students, coach other teachers, and develop intervention programs to ensure that all WPCSD students are competent readers by the time they enter third grade.
- **WPHS and Lund College and Career Readiness (\$213,965).** Allows for extended support for dual credit college students, enhancement of the Advanced Placement program, and a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) coach to provide training and feedback to teachers as they implement the STEM methodology into content areas. Also allows for Friday work to assist all learners in meeting their goals. Nearly 100 Chromebooks come as a part of this grant, expanding the district's infrastructure associated with 1:1 learning.
- **Career and Technical Education Competitive (\$313,262).** Allows for the Auto Technology program at WPHS to transition to Diesel Technology, better preparing students who desire to work in the mining industry with the skills best suited to long-term employment. Also allows for a boost to the school's technology program with the introduction of three new programs: Computer Science, Web and Media Design, and IT Technology and Support. These programs will better prepare students for higher education and employment. Expands Health Science staffing to full time, adding multiple offerings of Health Science I and II, Certified Nurse's Assistant, and Sports Medicine.
- **Social Workers in Schools (\$80,960).** Social and emotional learning is just as important as academic learning. This grant provides personnel for home visits, group counseling, parent outreach and training, and at-risk intervention. David E. Norman now has a full-time Director of Students and Family Services and Supports funded through this grant.
- **Nevada Ready 21 (\$416,476).** WPMS teachers use a standards-based approach that allows students to move on to the next concept once the current one is mastered. This grant provides every middle school student with his or her own Chromebook and provides a full-time instructional coaching position, both of which are crucial to the success of a standards-based approach. The coach provides constant feedback to teachers as they implement their innovative delivery methods.
- **PACE Grant (\$30,357).** Through the Partners Allied for Community Excellence (PACE) Coalition, DEN is able to provide after-school activities/programs for youth empowerment and prevention of underage drinking/substance abuse.
- **1003a Improvement Funds (\$955,000).** WPCSD used its revised District Performance Plan to craft a competitive grant application that brought in nearly 1/7 of the available funds statewide through this grant. It provides extensive district-wide teacher training in literacy, STEM, and leadership development. Teachers receive Friday training, coaching as they implement their strategies, and opportunities to collaborate regarding best practices designed to improve students' learning.