



**Southern Nevada Regional Professional  
Development Program  
Nye County School District  
2013-2014  
State Report**



Prepared by: Debbie Carle, RPDP Instructional Specialist  
Desiree Veloz, RPDP Instructional Specialist  
Kim K. Friel, NCSD Assistant Superintendent



## NYE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT Southern Nevada Regional Professional Development

### General Operations

Over the last year the Nye County School District has provided numerous professional development opportunities with the support of RPDP Regional Trainers. Trainings took place after school hours, on weekends, on in-service days, and during the early release Wednesday Professional Development time. Nearly all Nye County teachers (291, 98%) and 19 administrators attended at least one RPDP training during the 2013/2014 school year. The two Nye County based RPDP trainers and part-time trainers worked with curriculum, district and school performance plans, staff development, instructional strategies, mentoring technology, implementation of the NEPF and data. These trainers assisted the region and serviced Nye County teachers and administrators in effective teaching strategies for all core subjects. They also worked briefly with Esmeralda County. Without the support of RPDP, NCS and other rural counties would not have been able to provide a professional development program. Currently RPDP conducts professional learning opportunities in the following areas:

- **Mathematics**
  - Common Core State Standards: Focusing on the 3 Math shifts
    1. Focus strongly where the Standards focus
    2. Coherence: Thinking across grades, and link to major topics within grades
    3. Rigor: Require fluency, application and deep understanding
- **Writing**
  - Nevada Formative Writing Tools
    1. All of the K-8 teachers and administrators throughout the district were trained on using writing tools, rubrics and checklists.
  - Writing Traits and Writing Across the Curriculum classes were held.
- **Reading**
  - Common Core State Standards: Focusing on the 3 ELA shifts
    1. Building knowledge through content rich fiction
    2. Reading, Writing and Speaking grounded in evidence from text both Literary and Informational
    3. Regular practice with complex text and its academic language
- **Differentiated Instruction**
  - Tiering Assignments and Assessments
  - Instructional strategies for different learners
  - Data analysis and use for differentiating instruction
- **Integrated Technology**
  - Google Apps for Education
  - Smart Board
  - iPads for classrooms
  - Flip Classroom
  - Web Resources for Education
  - General operations and troubleshooting



- **Leadership**
  - Core Leadership for building collaboration around the NACS
  - Supervision and Instruction
  
- **English Language Learner ELL**
  - WiDA Standards
  - WiDA Access training
  
- **State/District Committees and Representation**
  - Nevada Formative Writing Tools
  - SBAC Content Review
  - School Performance Plan
  - School Performance Framework
  - NAA Content Review
  - WiDA Access testing
  - Nye County District Improvement Plan
  - Health Advisory Committee
  - District Writing Committee
  - Nevada Educator Performance Framework
  
- **Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium**



## **Staff Development**

During the 2013/2014 school year, Nye County School District had five in-service days for teachers to engage in professional development. Throughout the year Nye County RPDP staff have provided staff trainers for those days in accordance with the wishes of principals and have also provided additional learning opportunities for the Nye County District. The RPDP trainers have directly supported nearly all of the 293 teachers of the Nye County School District. The following is a list of trainings that the regional trainers have provided for Nye County Schools throughout the 2013-2014 school year:

- Instructional Strategies with MAP Data (MAP: Measures of Academic Progress)
- Differentiated Instruction
- Close Reading Strategies at multiple grade levels/multiple content areas
- Google Apps in the Classroom
- MAP reports: Data Analysis to Affect Instruction
- Using Formative Assessments to Inform Instruction
- Components of an Effective Lesson
- Nevada Formative Writing Tools
- Supervision and Instruction for Administrators
- School Improvement: Data & Writing for SPP Teams, workshop
- School Improvement: Collaboration for Better Teaching, workshop
- iPads as a classroom tool
- Smartboards for Interactive Lessons
- Testing: Security
- Testing: Intro to the Smarter Balance Assessment
- Nevada's Growth Model
- School Performance framework
- The Flipped Classroom
- Formative Assessments and Small Group Reading
- Literary Elements Nonfiction Strategies
- Nonfiction Toolkit
- WiDA Access Testing Training
- Close Reading Strategies
- Text Dependent Questioning
- Classroom Engagement
- Constructed Response Format
- Nevada Educator Performance Framework
- SBAC Training
- Writing Across the Curriculum
- Depth of Knowledge/Higher Order Thinking
- Informational Text Structures and Strategies



## **Technology**

All classrooms in Nye County have at least one computer that is connected to the internet and most of the elementary classrooms have four computers; all of the schools have computer labs. The Northwest Evaluation Association's (NWEA) MAP test is a key technological and informational focus in Nye County School District as well as Esmeralda, Lincoln, and Mineral Counties. To be adaptive, the test is administered on computers. All K-9 students are tested three times a year so students can be individually monitored for growth. Teachers were provided training administering the web-based formative test, to interpret the data and adjust their instruction according to the instructional data provided by NWEA/MAP.

Teachers requested professional development to assist them in integrating technology into their instruction. In response to this request, RPDP tailored trainings to school and teacher needs, providing training in Google Apps for Education, iPads, basic troubleshooting, Flipped Classrooms and SmartBoards. Trainings on basic technology use were also provided to several teachers on an individual basis.

Due to the fact that Nye County encompasses 18,400 square miles, reaching every community and teacher is a challenge. To help bring the teachers closer together for staff development and graduate level courses, the regional trainers have incorporated Polycom long distance learning labs. Every Nye County high school and district office has a Polycom System that can be used for this purpose. Skype and Adobe Connect is also used to communicate face-to-face with individuals in our remote rural areas.

## **Mathematics**

During the past year the math teachers of Nye County have been supported in a variety of ways. Research based best-practices with a focus on the 3 math shifts in the Common Core have been embedded in all of the trainings. Three Instructional Specialists have aided teachers through classroom modeling and through coursework regarding the Nevada Academic Content Standards. Also, discussions regarding processes and problems faced by classroom teachers have allowed them to benefit from the experience of others.

## **Reading & Writing**

Throughout the year, RPDP with the help of one NCSD Instructional Specialist trained all K-8 teachers and administrators on the Nevada Formative Writing Tools. There was a clear focus on the 3 ELA shifts in the Common Core Standards with an emphasis on informational text.

RPDP also provided assistance to administrators in the preparation and training of teachers for the Smarter Balance Assessment.



## **Leadership and School Improvement**

A School Performance Plan (SPP) workshop was held in June. Administrators, along with their teams of teachers, were trained on the new SPP template, how to identify root causes, set attainable goals, write SMART objectives and monitor progress. School teams worked together to complete their plans over this two-day workshop. This will enable the schools to begin working on their school wide objectives the first day of school.



Nye County School District

<p align="center"><b>Regional Professional Development Program Training</b> Reporting Requirement Pursuant to NRS 391.556 School Year Ended: 2013-14</p>
--

<b>Unduplicated Attendance Counts</b>	<b>No.</b>
<b>Total Teachers, Administrators, and Staff Attending training sessions</b>	310

Name of person completing this report: Desiree Veloz

Title: RPDP Trainer

Phone: (775) 727-7743 ext. 279