

To: NDE Accountability Team  
 From: HCSD Superintendent, Dr. David Jensen  
 Re: Response to HCSD Acing Accountability Report  
 Date: September 25, 2024

This narrative is in response to a recent request for Humboldt County to review our district’s Acing Accountability Report and Data Tables on September 18, 2024. Below you will find narratives that explain why we were unable to approve portions of the report and are requesting that our narrative be shared along with our report when presenting this information to the Governor, State Board, and the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

Acing Accountability Report	Humboldt’s response
<p><b>Student Academic Growth</b>            In grades K-3, at least 65% of students in the school district and SPCSA meet or exceed their personalized learning growth goal in reading. Personalized learning growth goals are determined by individual results from the winter administration of MAP for kindergarten students and the spring administration of MAP for 1-3 grade students, and outcomes will be evaluated based on the spring administration.</p>	<p>Humboldt County does not believe that requiring 65% of students in grades K-3 to meet or exceed their personalized learning growth goal in reading is an appropriate measure for students in Nevada. MAP Growth sets personalized learning targets for students based on national norms. These growth targets represent average growth based on norming studies. This means that by design, about 50% of students are expected to meet or exceed their growth goals each year. Based on NWEA’s design, it is evident that NDE would be better served through the development of a measure that is intended to assess performance as is being applied in this section. Evidence to support our position is provided in NWEA’s research blog <a href="#">“Measuring growth and understanding negative growth”</a>. Therefore, Humboldt County is unable to provide “approval” as an indicator that the district agrees with this metric in reporting information to the Governor, State Board, and the Legislative Counsel Bureau.</p>
<p><b>Student Academic Proficiency</b>            In grades K-3, an increasing number of students in the school district and SPCSA demonstrate grade-level proficiency in reading. Spring MAP results show at least a five-point annual increase in the percentage of students in the school district and SPCSA demonstrating proficiency (at or above the 65th percentile).</p>	<p>Humboldt County does not believe that increasing students’ grade level proficiency in reading should be measured using the MAP Growth Assessment. MAP Growth is intended to measure a student on a learning continuum and not directly align to proficiency within a grade level. While NWEA MAP can be used as a predictor of performance on the annual summative assessment (SBAC) it should not be used as a tool for measurement. This measure should reflect the assessment that is measuring proficiency which is the Smarter Balanced Assessment in Nevada. Therefore, Humboldt County is unable to provide “approval” as an indicator that the district agrees with this metric in reporting information to the Governor, State Board, and the Legislative Counsel Bureau.</p>

<p><b>District Budget Allocation and Retention</b>  School districts and the SPCSA provide the percentage of the budget that is allocated toward salaries and benefits for all employees.</p>	<p>Humboldt County is concerned that the current reporting process of “all funds FY23” provides a skewed perception of actual expenses for salaries and benefits. With the significant funds made available through ESSER, while also including categories such as Bond Funds and Capital Improvements, along with other state/federal grants, the total revenues are skewed upwards. This creates a perception that salaries are significantly lower than actual, especially if federal funds and other “short term/protected” funding mechanisms were removed. Current reporting would indicate that there is significant ability to increase salaries and benefits, however, fails to recognize that many funding sources are not designed for this purpose and should not be included in this analysis.</p>
<p><b>District Success (Innovation) Goal</b></p>	<p>NOTE: Humboldt only selected one (1) goal, however, we had two objectives associated with this goal. The objectives have been reflected in the District Data Review as Goal 1 and Goal 2.</p>

Thank you for allowing Humboldt County to review and respond to the Acing Accountability reporting format. As always, should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Jensen  
Superintendent