

Accountability Release FAQ

Q: What information is the Nevada Department of Education releasing on Sept. 15?

A: The Nevada Department of Education is releasing three sets of distinct but related results on Sept. 15:

1. Statewide assessment results for grades 3-8 summative assessments in English Language Arts and Mathematics; grades 5, 8, and high school Science assessments; and grade 11 ACT;
2. Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) results, including star ratings; and,
3. Nevada District Performance Framework (NDPF) results.

Q: How should families and the public interpret school star ratings and district performance ratings?

A: A school's star rating on the NSPF is the Nevada Department of Education's primary tool for communicating school quality to families and community members. Schools earn between one and five stars, with five stars signaling the highest level of performance. NSPF star ratings are based on student proficiency and academic growth, progress toward English language proficiency, chronic absenteeism, and, at the high school level, credit attainment, advanced coursework, and graduation rates.

School districts and charter sponsors are now rated under the NDPF framework to communicate district performance. Unlike the NSPF, districts do not receive star ratings. Instead, districts are rated as Level 1 (indicating they did not meet performance expectations), Level 2 (indicating they had intermediate performance), or Level 3 (indicating they exceeded performance expectations). NDPF ratings are intended to give families, trustees, and the public an initial picture of district performance, recognize strengths, identify areas that need greater attention, and make informed decisions that support student success. Results for this year are preliminary as the Nevada Department of Education works to evolve the NDPF indicators over time.

Q: What is new about Nevada's accountability system this year?

A: For the first time, the Nevada Department of Education now rates school districts. This was created through Senate Bill 460, passed during the 2025 Legislative Session and signed by Governor Joe Lombardo. For this year, NDPF ratings are based on two components: School Outcomes and District Supports. School Outcomes measures overall school performance based on the NSPF within each district. District Supports measures factors under district control that help provide an opportunity for students to learn and thrive, including qualified educators in classrooms, access to those educators in Title I schools compared with non-Title I schools, high-quality instructional materials, college and career readiness course enrollment, and financial stability.

Additionally, the Nevada Department of Education is in the process of revisiting the NSPF framework during the 2026-27 school year in partnership with the Metrics Subcommittee for Accountability Redesign (SAR) to make the framework clearer, more actionable, and more closely aligned with the student outcomes Nevada expects schools to deliver.

Q: Why might a school's 2025-26 rating differ from its rating last year?

A: A school's NSPF rating is a reflection of its performance. Multiple factors may influence why a school's rating changes from one year to the next, including changes in school enrollment, school closures, changes in teacher workforce capacity, student level performance shifts on assessments, and changes in both school and school district leadership. Families and community members are encouraged to view school NSPF results on the [Nevada Report Card](#) to better understand how a school's performance has changed over time.

Q: What are the changes to the WIDA assessment in the 2025-2026 school year?

A: The English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) developed by WIDA is called WIDA ACCESS and is administered to English learners in grade K-12. In 2022, WIDA started the work of incorporating the WIDA English Language Development Standards Framework, 2020 Edition into the WIDA ACCESS assessment. The result of this multi-year work was the first operational administration of the WIDA ACCESS aligned to the updated framework in school year 2025-26.

The alignment of the assessment to the new framework necessitated development of new content and the rescaling of scores. To compare scores between SY 24-25 and SY 25-26, WIDA has provided State Education Agencies concordance tables to use in interpreting this year's results for accountability and growth measures.

Q: How was the Nevada District Performance Framework developed, and what changed following the district preview process?

A: The Nevada Department of Education convened a stakeholder group called the [Metrics Subcommittee for Accountability Redesign \(SAR\)](#) and partnered with the Center for Assessment to develop the framework. SAR members came from education, the Nevada System of Higher Education, business, governance, and the community, and included teachers, principals, parents, and students. The SAR met eight times for day-long sessions between November 2025 and June 2026. The Department also engaged the Nevada Association of School Superintendents and the Nevada Association of School Boards multiple times during development.

Preliminary, embargoed results were provided to districts and charter sponsors by Aug. 17, along with the data behind each indicator. During the district review window, districts could review the underlying data and submit evidence or corrections, and the Department considered any submitted corrections before finalizing and publicly releasing district ratings.

Q: How will this year's ratings be used?

A: The 2025-26 NDPF ratings will be used for preliminary informational purposes only. The Nevada Department of Education will calculate and publish ratings and use the first year of results, along with stakeholder feedback, to test the framework's technical quality, usability, and intended outcomes before refining it through SAR. Acing Accountability, the district accountability initiative that began in 2023, will sunset once SAR completes updates to the NDPF following the 2025-26 results.

The first designations occur in the 2027-28 school year under a tiered structure, escalating from a designation to probation to state oversight if performance doesn't improve over three consecutive years, as required by SB 460.

School Year Data	NDPF Release	NDPF Anticipated Rating Use
2025-2026	Fall 2026	Ratings are informational and provide an initial picture of district performance.
2026-2027	Fall 2027	Student Outcomes are added to the NDPF. Districts that do not meet expectations may be designated low-performing (Focus Districts) and receive additional supports or interventions.
2027-2028	Fall 2028	A district that remains low-performing for two consecutive years is designated underperforming (Priority District), triggering increased state support and intervention.
2028-2029 and beyond	Fall 2029+	Priority Districts may face increased planning, technical assistance, monitoring, and interventions approved by the Public Education Oversight Board, with additional state oversight if sufficient progress is not made.

Note: This timeline illustrates standard performance-based accountability pathway. SB 460 also authorizes accelerated intervention in specified circumstances involving governance, leadership, financial management, systemic inequity, or noncompliance with state law.

Q: Where can I learn more about the Nevada District Performance Framework?

A: For more information, including more detailed and technical documentation on the NDPF, please visit the NDPF landing page of the [Nevada Department of Education's website](#).