

Funding for Victory Schools Senate Bill 467 (2019)

Commission on School Funding
January 9, 2020

Victory School Funding

- Background
 - Initially funded in 2015; renewed in 2017 and 2019
 - Identified as the 35 lowest performing (1 and 2-stars) schools in the highest poverty zip codes
 - 2019 legislative session:
 - 3-star Victory Schools to retain 50% of Victory grant funding from the preceding year to sustain successful programs during the 2019-2021 biennium
- Program Goals:
 - Read on grade level by end of 3rd grade;
 - Pupils are prepared for a rigorous high school curriculum; and
 - Pupils graduate from high school as college or career ready.
- Equitable Outcomes
 - Students have the opportunity for equitable access to Tier I (Core) 21st century learning.
 - Students are receiving access to STEM, STEAM, or CTE opportunities.
 - Students and families are receiving access to wrap-around services (e.g. Social Workers)

Distribution Methodology: Victory Grant Funds

- Funded through the General Fund: Account for Programs for Innovation and the Prevention of Remediation (NRS 387.1247)
 - FY20: \$25,000,000
 - FY21: \$25,000,000
- Amount distributed per pupil at each school – based on NDE validation enrollment count day
 - Divide amount of money appropriated by total number of pupils enrolled in Victory Schools statewide to determine per pupil amount
 - Multiply per pupil amount by total number of pupils enrolled at each school to determine school allocation

Distribution History: Victory Grant Funds

- \$50 million per biennium - \$25 million annually

School Year	Total Students Enrolled	Amount Per Pupil
2015-2016	21,847	\$1137.00
2016-2017	21,982	\$1137.00
2017-2018	22,256	\$1123.29
2018-2019	22,199	\$1126.17
*2019-2020	21,730	*\$1235.83

- 3 Star Victory Schools*: Allocate 50% of 2018-19 Victory Allocations (see SB 555, subsection 28.5).

Local Administration of Funds: Victory Schools

School districts and charter schools

- Shall distribute the money to each Victory school in the school district or charter school on a per pupil basis;
- Conduct a needs assessment of the pupils attending the school;
- Submit a report to the Department and the Legislative Committee on Education that includes:
 - Identification of schools receiving Victory funds
 - Amount of money distributed to each school
 - Description of the programs or services where money was applied
 - Number of students participating in programs or services
 - Average expenditure per pupil for each program or service funded
 - Recommendations

Local Administration of Funds: Victory Schools

- School Plans
 - Each plan to improve the achievement of pupils enrolled in a Victory school that is prepared by the Principal of the school pursuant to NRS 385A.650 must describe how the school will use the money distributed to meet the needs of the pupils attending the school (SB 467 Section 2.12).
 - The Department will approve or deny plans and/or expenditures not meeting the intent of the Victory grant.

Allowable uses of funds:

Victory Grant

At least 51% of the grant must be applied to the following strategies:

- a) Prekindergarten program
- b) Summer academy or other instruction at times during the year when school is not in session
- c) Additional instruction or other learning opportunities when school is not in session
- d) Professional development for teachers and other educational personnel concerning instructional practices and strategies proven to be effective to increase pupil achievement

Additional Allowable uses of funds: Victory Grant Continued

- **At least 51% of the grant must be applied to the following strategies:**
 - e) Incentive for hiring and retaining teachers and other licensed educational personnel who provide any of the programs or services (State Board approved incentives, July 2015).
 - f) Employment of paraprofessionals, other educational personnel and other persons who provide any of the programs or services
 - g) Reading skills centers
 - h) Integrated student supports, wrap-around services and evidence-based programs, as determined using the needs assessment

Additional Allowable uses of funds: Victory Grant, continued

No more than 49% of the grant can be applied to the following strategies:

- a) Provide evidence-based social, psychological or health care services to pupils and their families;
- b) Provide programs and services designed to engage parents and families;
- c) Provide programs to improve school climate and culture;
- d) If the Victory school is a high school, provide additional instruction or other learning opportunities for pupils and professional development for teachers at an elementary school, middle school or junior high school that is located within the zone of attendance of the high school and is not also designated as a Victory school.