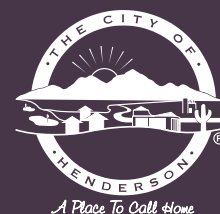




City of Henderson
Education Analysis
2018 Update





Educational outcomes for students in Nevada's public education system have improved in a number of ways in recent years, including significant increases in Advanced Placement (AP) test scores and record-high graduation rates. Within the City of Henderson (Henderson), educational outcomes are significantly better in many respects compared to the rest of Nevada, including measures such as graduation rates, proficiency rates and ACT scores. This report outlines the performance of schools within the City of Henderson compared to their counterparts in other parts of the Clark County School District (CCSD), the state of Nevada and the nation, and measures year-over-year trends within Henderson schools.

Henderson Summary

For this comparison, the 39 public schools located within Henderson's city limits were identified and their individual data were combined to calculate totals for the city. While this is not a perfect representation of all students in Henderson given how school zones within the CCSD overlap with municipal boundaries, the use of these schools allows for a reasonably comprehensive and accurate analysis of the state of education within Henderson.

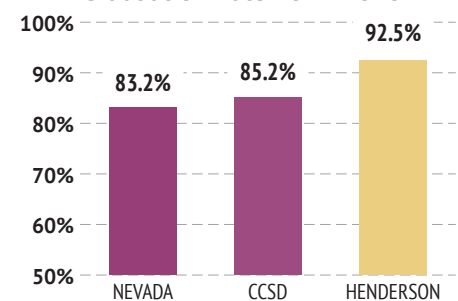
Total enrollment among the 39 public schools in Henderson was slightly more than 43,000 students during the 2017-2018 school year, an increase of around 1,000 students (+2.0 percent) from the prior school year. The majority of this increase was due to the opening of a new elementary school in Henderson (Josh Stevens Elementary) with an enrollment of over 800 students.

Graduation rates across the state have risen steadily, and the graduating class of 2018 set another record high as the statewide graduation rate rose to 83.2 percent. The CCSD also set a record high with an 85.2 percent graduation rate, a more than 10 percentage point improvement over the past two years, up from 74.9 percent in 2016. Graduation rates continued to climb among Henderson high schools as well, reaching 92.5 percent in 2018.

Unlike graduation rates, math and reading proficiency rates among elementary and middle school students have remained relatively consistent in recent years. During the 2017-2018 school year, 48.3 percent of Henderson fifth graders tested as proficient in math and 65.4 percent were proficient in reading, significantly higher than the statewide proficiency rates of 35.9 percent in math and 50.4 percent in reading. At the seventh-grade level, proficiency rates were slightly lower but the overall trend remained the same: among Henderson seventh graders, 44.3 percent tested as proficient in math and 62.1 percent were proficient in reading, compared to the statewide proficiency rates of 31.5 percent in math and 47.0 percent in reading.

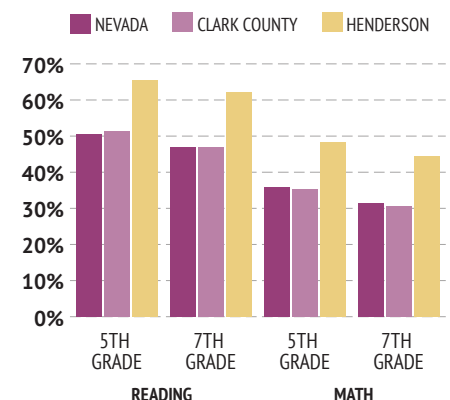
A student's academic achievement can be significantly influenced by many factors outside of the classroom, including socioeconomic status and parental or family support. Available data indicate that Henderson students are less likely to face some of these obstacles to success than are students in other parts of Clark County and throughout Nevada, which could play

Graduation Rate 2017-2018



Source: Nevada Department of Education, Applied Analysis

Proficiency Rates 2017-2018



Source: Nevada Department of Education, Applied Analysis



a significant role in the city's overall education performance relative to the rest of the county, state and nation. For example, in 2017 the median household income in Nevada as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau was roughly \$58,000. In Clark County, the median income was slightly lower at roughly \$57,200 per household. In Henderson, the median household reported an income of nearly \$70,000, 20.1 percent higher than the statewide median. Poverty statistics show a similar trend, as 13.9 percent of Nevada families with children earned an income below the federal poverty line, while just 9.4 percent of such families in Henderson had incomes below that threshold. This ultimately translates into fewer Henderson students being enrolled in the federal Free and Reduced-Price Lunch (FRL) program. In Nevada, 58.3 percent of students were eligible for the program during the 2017-2018 school year. In the CCSD, an even greater proportion of students (67.0 percent) were eligible. However, among Henderson students, only 43.5 percent were eligible to receive FRL benefits.

Demographic Overview

| Jurisdiction | Median Household Income | Poverty Rate Families with Children | Adults with Bachelor's Degree or Higher | Free and Reduced Price Lunch Eligibility | English Language Learners | Individualized Education Plan Students |
|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--|---------------------------|--|
| United States | \$60,336 | 15.0% | 32.0% | 52.1%* | 9.5%* | N/A |
| Nevada | \$58,003 | 13.9% | 24.9% | 58.3% | 16.8% | 12.3% |
| Clark County | \$57,189 | 15.4% | 24.4% | 67.0% | 19.4% | 12.1% |
| Henderson | \$69,667 | 9.4% | 33.9% | 43.5% | 6.1% | 12.3% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, National Center for Education Statistics, Nevada Department of Education

* U.S. FRL and ELL data from 2015-16 school year, most recent available on national scale

To be clear, this does not mean that there aren't a large number of students in Henderson who face adversity in the educational process as a result of socioeconomic issues such as poverty, homelessness or hunger. The 43.5 percent of Henderson students eligible for the FRL program translates into nearly 19,000 students out of the city's total enrollment of roughly 43,000. Assuming a relatively even distribution of children among families in Henderson (which is likely a conservative estimate given national trends of wealthier families having fewer children), we estimate that more than 4,000 students attending Henderson schools are living in poverty. No community is untouched by the issue of poverty, but when data is aggregated in this way there are material differences between the City of Henderson, Clark County, Nevada and the United States as a whole that must factor into the discussion of educational outcomes.

National Comparison

For most national comparisons, data was compiled from school districts around the country with at least 25,000 students enrolled across all grade levels in the 2017-2018 school year. There are 305 such districts throughout the United States (including the hypothetical Henderson school district used for comparison purposes) out of a total of nearly 17,000.¹ Members of this group are referred to as "large school districts" throughout this report. With roughly 43,000 students, Henderson would rank in the 99th percentile nationwide for size as the 125th largest district by enrollment. This represents a slight increase from the 2015-2016 school year when Henderson would have ranked as the nation's 131st largest school district if it were an independent entity.

Since 2016, Henderson's graduation rate ranking among large school districts has improved significantly, passing nearly 75 other school districts while rising from 138th to 64th. The overall weighted average graduation rate for large school districts

¹ National Center for Education Statistics



was 84.4 percent for their most recent available graduating classes, about 8 percentage points below Henderson's 92.5 percent graduation rate in 2018.

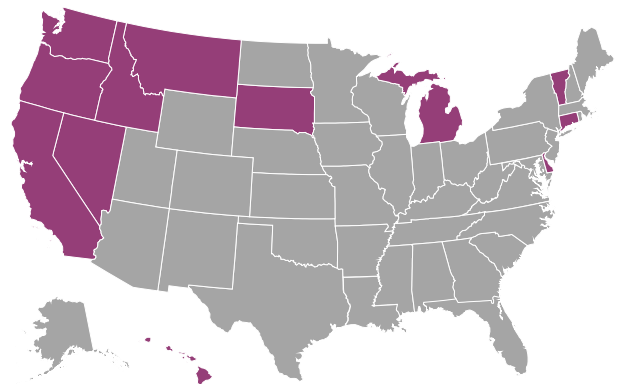
At lower grade levels, Henderson schools continue to outperform many others nationwide in terms of math and reading proficiency. As in the 2017 report outlining the performance of Henderson schools, the comparison of these proficiency rates is limited to member states of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC). The group currently includes 12 states, all of which administer the same proficiency tests and use the same standards of measurement, making them ideal for direct comparisons.

Of the 305 large school districts previously identified, 55 were in SBAC states and had qualifying scores for 5th grade reading and math proficiency.² Among these 55 school districts, Henderson's combined 5th grade reading proficiency rate of 65.4 percent during the 2017-2018 school year ranked 8th overall, one spot lower than their ranking of 7th for the 2016-2017 school year. In math, Henderson's performance of 48.3 percent proficiency ranked 13th among those districts, also one place below Henderson's prior ranking of 12th.

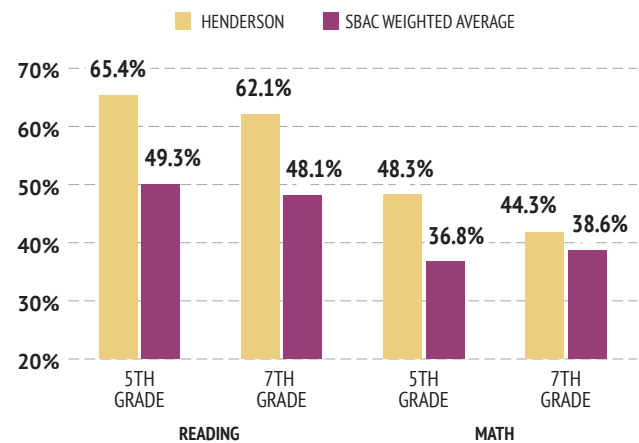
For 7th grade, 57 large school districts from SBAC states had qualifying scores. With a 7th grade reading proficiency rate of 62.1 percent, Henderson would rank 15th among this group, an improvement from 17th a year ago. Henderson's performance for 7th grade math would place it toward the middle of the group, ranking 22nd out of 57 with a proficiency rate of 44.3 percent. In the 2016-2017 school year, Henderson schools would have ranked 29th in math proficiency.

Not every SBAC state has school districts large enough to be included in the district comparison groups, so a comparison to the statewide average proficiency scores provides another benchmark in the evaluation of Henderson schools. Proficiency rates among Henderson schools continue to be well above average when compared to these states. Reading proficiency scores are particularly impressive among Henderson schools, outpacing the SBAC weighted average by 16.3 percentage points among 5th graders and by 14.0 percentage points among 7th graders. Henderson 5th graders also significantly outperform the SBAC average for math proficiency with an 11.3 percentage point difference. This performance premium falls significantly by 7th grade, however, as Henderson outperforms the SBAC average by a more modest 5.7 percentage points.

SBAC Member States



SBAC Proficiency Rates



Source: Various State Departments of Education, Applied Analysis

² Several large school districts within SBAC states do not include any elementary schools, and therefore have no scores for 5th grade students.



Performance Indicator Comparisons

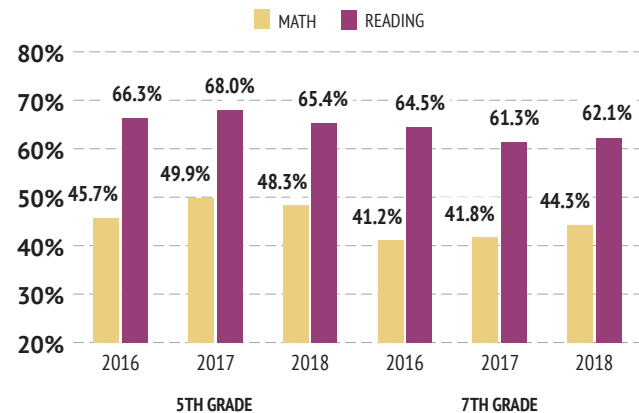
| School Performance Indicator | Nevada | Clark County | Henderson | National/SBAC Average |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| 5th Grade Reading (SBAC only) | 50.4% | 51.3% | 65.4% | 49.1% |
| 5th Grade Math (SBAC Only) | 35.9% | 35.4% | 48.3% | 37.0% |
| 7th Grade Reading (SBAC Only) | 47.0% | 46.8% | 62.1% | 48.1% |
| 7th Grade Math (SBAC Only) | 31.5% | 30.6% | 44.3% | 38.6% |
| ACT Composite Score (1 to 36) | 17.7 | 17.4 | 18.6 | 20.8 |
| High School Graduation Rate | 83.2% | 85.2% | 92.5% | 84.1% |

Overall, proficiency rates in Henderson have remained relatively steady since the 2015-2016 school year when Nevada began administering the SBAC proficiency exams. Math proficiency among both 5th and 7th graders has increased slightly over the past three years, in line with statewide trends; reading proficiency has declined for the cohorts but remains significantly higher than the statewide average.

While proficiency rates in Henderson far surpass the Nevada and CCSD averages, students do not seem to be displaying significant growth as they move through the system. In 2017, the reading proficiency rate for Henderson 7th graders was 6.8 percent lower than that for 5th graders. The difference was even more significant in math, where the proficiency rate for 7th graders trailed that of 5th graders by 8.1 percent. In 2018, these proficiency gaps closed considerably, as Henderson 7th graders trailed 5th graders by just 3.3 percent in math and 4.0 percent in reading. This lags behind the average growth among students in all SBAC states, where, in 2018, 7th graders trailed 5th graders by 1.2 percent in reading proficiency and exceeded 5th grade math proficiency rates by 1.8 percent. The districts showing the largest improvement between 5th grade and 7th grade proficiency rates reported growth of 12.1 percent in reading and 13.2 percent in math.

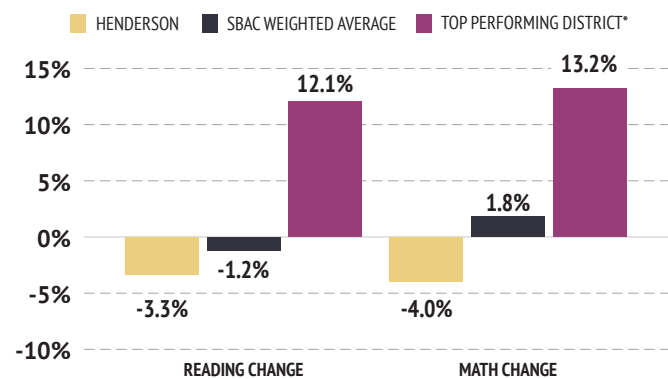
Starting with the 2015-2016 school year, Nevada has required all high school juniors (11th grade) to take the ACT, a test designed to measure a student's preparedness for college-level courses. In the three years since, Nevada's average composite score on the ACT has been the lowest in the nation. Henderson juniors, however,

Henderson Historical Proficiency Rates



Source: Nevada Department of Education, Applied Analysis

Student Growth: Change in Proficiency 5th to 7th Grade



Source: Various State Departments of Education, Applied Analysis

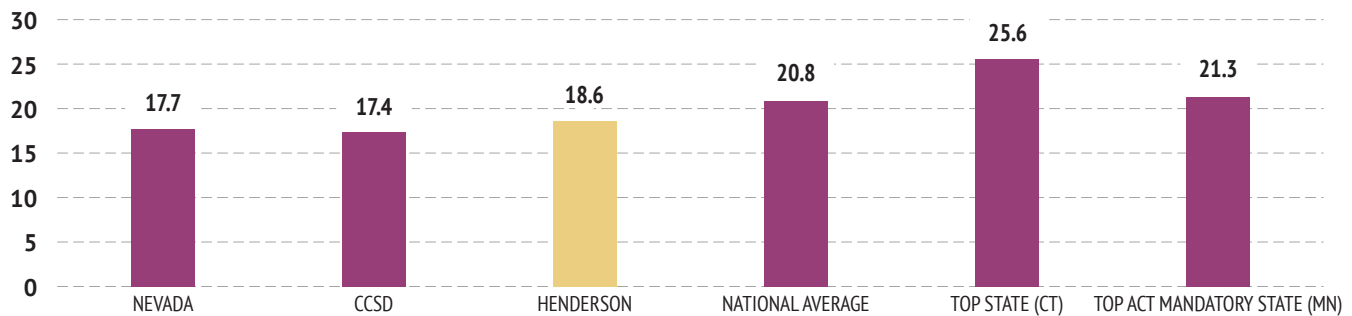
*Among large SBAC school districts



outperform the rest of the state on the ACT. On a scale from 1 to 36, Henderson schools reported an average composite score of 18.6 in 2018, slightly higher than the statewide average of 17.7.³ However, Henderson students' average of 18.6 would still fall well below the national average.

The mandatory nature of the ACT is in part responsible for the low scores seen throughout Nevada. Nationally, only about 55 percent of high school juniors took the test in 2018, averaging a score of 20.8. Among the states that require the ACT, the average was 19.7. The ACT is normally taken by students to submit as part of college applications, so in states where the test is not mandatory, it is almost exclusively taken by students who intend to continue on to higher education. In states where it is mandatory, many students taking the exam may not be as motivated to perform well, particularly in Nevada where the results of the test do not impact a student's ability to graduate.

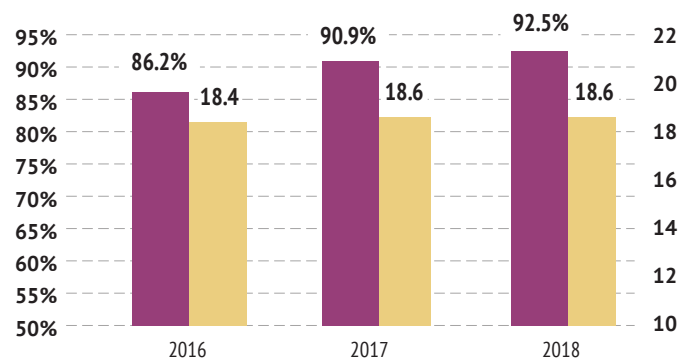
ACT Composite Scores



Source: ACT Inc, Nevada Department of Education, Applied Analysis

At the high school level in Nevada, there seems to be a disconnect between educational achievement and preparedness for further education, and the trend is true for Henderson as well. Despite significant increases in the graduation rate over the past few years, ACT scores have essentially remained flat. Since the ACT became mandatory, Henderson's graduation rate has increased from 86.2 percent to 92.5 percent, but ACT scores have only risen from 18.4 to 18.6. More students in Nevada are meeting the requirements to graduate high school on time, but many are still placed into remedial classes when and if they go on to attend any institutions within the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE). According to NSHE, nearly 39 percent of the high school graduating class of 2016 (latest reported year) that went on to 4-year institutions in Nevada were placed into either remedial math or English classes. Nearly 11 percent were placed into remedial classes for both subjects. At 2-year institutions throughout Nevada, the remedial placement rate is nearly 63 percent.⁴

Graduation Rate vs. ACT Score Trends



Source: Nevada Department of Education, Applied Analysis

³ ACT Inc, Nevada Department of Education

⁴ NSHE Remedial Placement Report



Conclusion

Within Henderson, educational outcomes and performance among public school students continue to surpass those throughout the CCSD and Nevada as a whole, as well as many similarly-sized school districts throughout the country. Graduation rates among Henderson high schools continue to climb steadily, reaching 92.5 percent in 2018. Basic High School, with a graduation rate of 84.3 percent in 2018, was the only Henderson high school with a graduation rate below 90 percent for the year. While Basic High School trails other high schools in Henderson it has nonetheless shown significant improvement in recent years, as its graduation rate has risen by 11.2 percentage points between the classes of 2016 and 2018. If this trajectory continues, Basic should soon surpass 90 percent as well.

Certain areas for improvement among Henderson schools remain, however, including ACT test scores and math and reading proficiency scores. Henderson students perform better on the ACT than Nevada students on average, but performance on the test has shown little change since its implementation in the 2015-2016 school year. While graduation rates are rising and more students are successfully completing the requirements for graduation, they do not seem to be significantly more prepared for higher education than other graduating classes before them. Reading and math proficiency among 5th and 7th graders show a similar trend. Proficiency rates are far higher in Henderson than throughout the CCSD and Nevada, but have remained relatively stagnant since Nevada adopted the SBAC exams during the 2015-2016 school year. Because of the change in testing procedures, it is not unreasonable that it might take several years for a discernable trend to appear, but that trend will be worth monitoring.

Many factors contributing to educational performance in Henderson are out of the city's control, including certain socioeconomic conditions, school funding decisions and curriculum changes. Despite this relative lack of control, Henderson remains a bright spot both in the State of Nevada and when compared to other regions throughout the United States.