

ABSTRACT

The proposed Nevada Character Education Project is a partnership of the Nevada Department of Education, the Douglas and Clark County School Districts, the State Attorney General's Office, and WestEd. The goal of the project is to design, develop, and implement in Nevada public schools an effective character education program that teaches students caring, civic virtue and citizenship, justice and fairness, respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, and other elements deemed appropriate, after taking into consideration the views of parents and students. Nevada's own assessment of youth risk behaviors demonstrates the need for this development.

There are six objectives for the NCEP: 1) to complete planning activities; 2) ensure understanding, buy-in, and commitment of stakeholders; 3) develop the NCEP; 4) develop an effective professional development and training strategy; 5) conduct effective professional development and training in the participating districts; and 6) develop an effective research and evaluation design to assess the success of the character education model.

The anticipated outcomes include: a) a character education model uniquely suited for Nevada; b) scientifically-derived data on the success of the model; c) documented policies and strategies for including all stakeholders in the process; d) documented successful strategies for integrating character education into the state curriculum; e) documented strategies for effective ways to use professional development and trainer-of-trainer strategies; and f) effective involvement of students in the character education program. The population to be served includes all students in the participating schools in grades 3,6, and 9 in the first project year, with the addition of another grade each succeeding year. The student population in Clark County is 245,659 and in Douglas County it is 6,989. These districts represent the ethnic, language, rural/urban, and economic diversity of Nevada's student population.