



# Specialized Instructional Support Personnel Ratios

Presentation to the State Board  
of Education  
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# Presentation Outcomes



The State Board of Education will receive an update on ratios of **Specialized Instructional Support Personnel (SISP)** and requirements related to Senate Bill 89 (2019), Senate Bill 151 (2021), and Senate Bill 352 (2021).

# Defining SISP



- Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 388.890: “Specialized instructional support personnel’ includes persons employed by each school to provide necessary services such as assessment, diagnosis, counseling, educational services, therapeutic services and related services, as defined in 20 U.S.C. § 1401(26), to pupils.”
- SISP include:
  - (1) A school counselor;
  - (2) A school psychologist;
  - (3) A school social worker;
  - (4) A school nurse;
  - (5) A speech-language pathologist;
  - (6) A school library media specialist; and
  - (7) Any other qualified professional.

# SB 89: SISP Ratios



- Senate Bill (SB) 89 from the 2019 Legislative Session was the school safety omnibus bill through which the recommendations of the Governor's School Safety Task Force were enacted.
- Per Section 7, "The State Board of Education shall develop non-binding recommendations for the ratio of pupils to specialized instructional support personnel (SISP) in this State for kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive."

# Non-Binding SISP Ratios



The State Board of Education [adopted](#) non-binding recommended ratios in April 2020 in alignment with SB89 (2019) and based on national standards of best practices as recommended by national associations representing SISP

Specialized Instructional Support Personnel	Recommended Non-Binding Ratio
School Counselors	1:250
School Psychologists	1:500
School Social Workers	1:250
School Nurses	1:750
School Library Media Specialist	1:school

# SB 151: SISP Ratios



- SB 151 (2021) addresses the goal of increasing access to SISP in school districts in counties whose populations are greater than 100,000: Clark and Washoe
- Per SB 151, each district plan must include, without limitation: (1) strategies to recruit and retain specialized instructional support personnel; and (2) annual targets
- NDE, in coordination with Clark and Washoe, submitted a baseline report on SB 151 on February 1, 2022
  - Districts will submit their initial implementation plans no later than October 1, 2022

# Baseline: School Counselors & Psychologists



School Counselors (SC)		Total Enrollment	# of Schools	SCs needed by student enrollment	Current # of SCs	# of SCs needed to meet best practices	% of Best Practice Ratios Met
District							
Clark	SY 19	325,081	384	1,301	656	645	50%
Clark	SY 20	309,456	379	1,237	732	505	59%
Washoe	SY 19	64,402	117	258	179	79	69%
Washoe	SY 20	61,642	117	246	186	60	75%

School Psychologists (SP)		Total Enrollment	# of Schools	SPs needed by student enrollment	Current # of SPs	# of SPs needed to meet best practices	% of Best Practice Ratios Met
District							
Clark	SY 19	325,081	384	651	164	487	25%
Clark	SY 20	309,456	379	619	182	437	29%
Washoe	SY 19	64,402	117	129	45	84	35%
Washoe	SY 20	61,642	117	123	47	76	38%

# Baseline: School Social Workers & Nurses



School Social Workers (SSW)*		Total Enrollment	# of Schools	SSWs needed by student enrollment	Current # of SSWs	# of SSWs needed to meet best practices	% of Best Practice Ratios Met
District							
Clark	SY 19	325,081	384	1,301	274	1,027	21%
Clark	SY 20	309,456	379	1,238	200	1,122	16%
Washoe	SY 19	64,402	117	258	53	205	21%
Washoe	SY 20	61,642	117	246	53	232	21%

\*Washoe County data include endorsed school social workers, contracted social workers, clinical mental health professionals, and professionals with other counseling degrees

School Nurses (SN)		Total Enrollment	# of Schools	SNs needed by student enrollment	Current # of SNs	# of SNs needed to meet best practices	% of Best Practice Ratios Met
District							
Clark	SY 19	325,081	384	434	195	239	45%
Clark	SY 20	309,456	379	413	294	119	71%
Washoe	SY 19	64,402	117	86	48	38	56%
Washoe	SY 20	61,642	117	82	70	12	85%



# Funded Efforts to Improve SISP Ratios



U.S. Department of Education grant to support **School-Based Mental Health Services** totaling \$10 million over 5 years:

- NDE has partnered with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), and Nevada State College (NSC) in many of the **recruitment and re-specialization strategies**, including dual credit options for current high school students as well as fast-tracked programs that include enhanced cultural and linguistic competency training.
- NDE has also awarded **funds to districts and charter schools** to support hiring incentives, relocation stipends, field placement incentives for current university and college students, and clinical internship incentives for master's level licensees.

In addition, using part the 10% of the State activities set-aside from Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds provided in response to COVID-19:

- NDE has invested \$7.5 million to support districts and schools in hiring an additional **100 school-based mental health professionals**.
- NDE has identified \$1.7 million to hire **Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) coaches** to assist districts and schools in providing interventions to address students' behavioral, social, and academic challenges as we continue to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

# Policies & Practices to Improve SISP Ratios



- Implement SB 352 (2021) to support paraprofessionals who are social worker candidates in getting internship hours while remaining employed
- Work with districts and charter schools to expand their Medicaid billing beyond Individualized Education Programs to “free care”
- Digitize processes through electronic health records to maximize Medicaid billing and ensure we have data to track inputs and ensure successful outcomes
- Support expanded use of secure telehealth platforms to provide academic and clinical supervision for students who accept rural practicum and internship placements.
- Continue to work with the Nevada System of Higher Education to locally grow more educators and address school-based behavioral health shortages



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## **Questions**

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