



December 15, 2014

## Zoom Schools and a Focus on English Language Learners

Overview: The Clark County School District (CCSD) currently operates 16 schools that have been designated as Zoom Schools. These schools have the highest percentage of students who are limited English proficient and provide additional support to their students.

The Zoom School program began in August 2013 with 14 schools. CCSD added two Zoom Schools in the 2014-15 school year, bringing the total number of Zoom Schools to 16. The Nevada Legislature allocated additional funding to provide all Zoom Schools with:

- Universal half-day preschool
- Full-day kindergarten and smaller kindergarten class sizes (21:1)
- Free summer school programs that extend the school year by 17 days beyond the state-mandated 180 days of instruction
- Zoom School Reading Skills Centers to support early literacy skills

In the first year of implementation of the Zoom School model, the district saw tremendous improvement in student achievement at the Zoom Schools:

- In the fall of 2013, more than 85 percent of pre-K students were below average in language skills. At the end of the 2013-14 school year, about 85 percent of the students met or exceeded expectations.
- In the fall of 2013, 65 percent of pre-K students were below average in literacy skills. By the end of the year, about 98 percent of the students met or exceeded expectations in this area.
- At the end of the 2013-14 school year, more than 70 percent of kindergarten students were able to perform tasks given to them in all but one of 12 categories.
- Students in first, second and third grades showed substantial gains in their reading skills during the 2013-14 school year. About 40 percent of students in these grades were exited from the Reading Skills Centers at their respective schools. Many of these students showed a full year's worth of growth in just the second half of the school year.

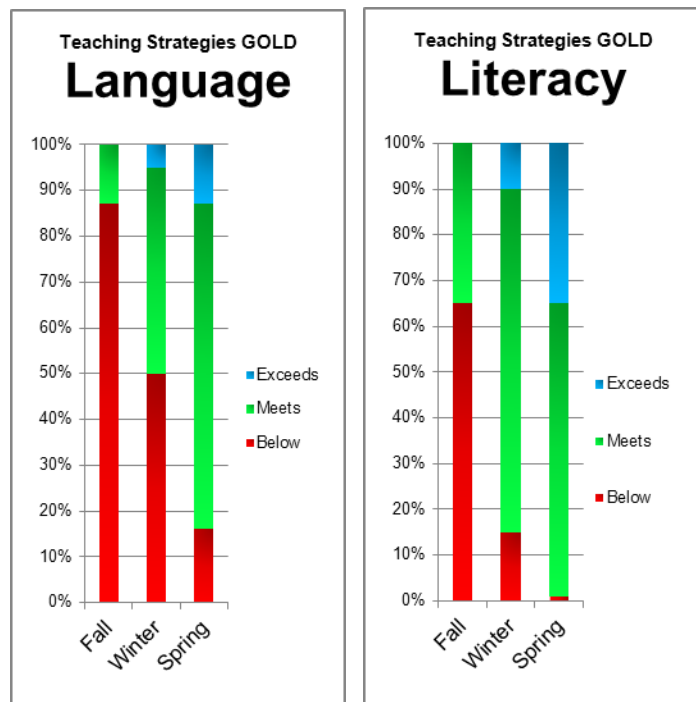
To see the growth in each of these categories, refer to the accompanying charts on page two.

CCSD is partnering with other school districts in Nevada to advocate for an expansion of the Zoom School program around the state. Nevada districts will advocate for additional funds in the legislative session that starts in February, 2015.

## Zoom Schools 2013-2014

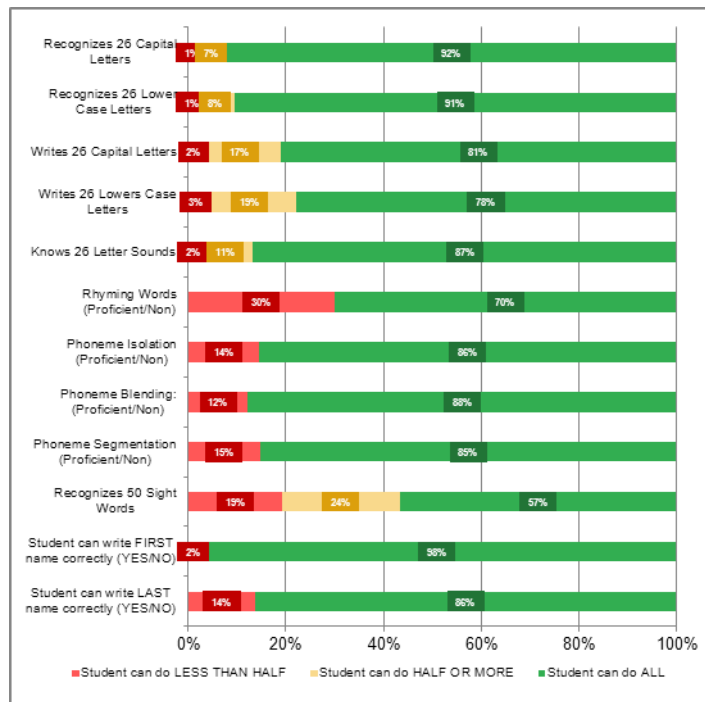
### Pre-K Data

The ongoing assessment and observation that teachers recorded using Teaching Strategies GOLD showed dramatic improvements in students' abilities in language and literacy. The graphs below show the progress of the CCSD Zoom Pre-K students throughout the 2013-2014 school year.



### Kindergarten Data

Kindergarten teachers assessed their students in the CCSD Kindergarten Essential Skills at the end of the 2013-2014 school year, and the literacy skills appear in the chart below. In all but one category, over 70% of students were able to perform the given task completely.



### Zoom Reading Center Data

Students who exited the Reading Center were, on average, below grade level in December 2013, and were at or above grade level by May 2014. **Students who did not exit made growth comparable to the DRA expected growth, and the third graders who did not exit averaged an entire year's growth from December 2013 to May 2014.**

Using the DRA scores to determine grade level reading ability, approximately 39%, a total of 475 students—69 first graders, 150 second graders, and 256 third graders—were exited from the CCSD Zoom Reading Centers during the 2013-2014 school year.

