

New Skills for Youth

NEVADA

IMPACT SNAPSHOT

Nevada was one of 10 states selected to participate in New Skills for Youth (NSFY), an initiative enhancing state efforts to increase the number of learners across the country who are prepared for success in both college and career. Between 2016 and 2019, Nevada strengthened its career pathways system, which is branded LifeWorks in the state, through the following actions:

Designing and implementing the college- and career-ready (CCR) high school diploma

Nevada's efforts to transform its career readiness system were structured around a new high school diploma authorized by the Legislature in 2017. The diploma recognizes students who meet the requirements for an advanced diploma and demonstrate college and career readiness in additional ways, including completion of advanced coursework, completion of a Career Technical Education (CTE) program of study, completion of a work-based learning course and attainment of an industry-recognized credential. Since 2018, more than 6,000 Nevada high school students have graduated with a CCR diploma. To support implementation, the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) awarded \$2.6 million in incentive grants to school districts and schools during the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years. The state Legislature recently authorized an additional \$2.6 million, resulting in total investments of \$5.2 million in CCR incentive grants. In addition, the Nevada State Board of Education approved revisions to the standard high school diploma to better document college and career readiness by incorporating CCR flex credits into the required coursework, which includes CTE concentrator and completer courses.



“ I loved every moment I was here, and I can't wait for other people to join this program. What I was looking for is a job that I can basically grow in. They just taught me so much, and it gave me the opportunity to actually go to Tesla and interview with them. **I don't think that I possibly could be where I am right now with Tesla if it weren't for Desert Rose.** ”

— Quran Broussard, Jr.,
Student, Desert Rose
Technical School

Building the infrastructure to scale work-based learning opportunities statewide

Throughout the NSFY initiative, Nevada worked to formalize and coordinate work-based learning activities and expand opportunities to learners across the state. Spurred by the state Legislature, which passed [Senate Bill \(S.B.\) 66](#) in 2017 to formalize work-based learning, the state designed an approval process, developed a district guide for work-based learning, required districts to designate work-based learning coordinators, provided funding to help launch new programs, and improved data collection mechanisms to better monitor learner participation and completion. Nevada also launched [LifeWorksNV.org](#), a statewide virtual hub for work-based learning opportunities and information, and is providing grants to employer membership or support organizations such as chambers of commerce and regional development authorities to scale up work-based learning activities in their regions.



Completing a comprehensive career pathways audit

Under then-Gov. Brian Sandoval, Nevada took aggressive action to strengthen its current and future workforce and diversify its economy by strengthening high-growth “[New Nevada](#)” sectors such as advanced manufacturing, information technology, education and health care. A key component of this work, led by NDE in partnership with WestEd, was inventorying Nevada’s secondary CTE programs of study and postsecondary CTE awards and mapping them to its labor market and workforce needs. The purpose of this mapping project, called Nevada’s Pathways to Employment, was to identify aligned and misaligned career pathways in the state to strengthen local CTE pathways and inform strategic planning by school districts and institutions of higher education. In the second phase of the project, Nevada plans to further refine the data and provide training to local high school and postsecondary educators and business leaders on how to use the data and analysis in the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) comprehensive local needs assessment.



MAJOR STATE POLICY WINS

Accountability System (2017) [↗](#)

Nevada revised its School Performance Framework, which satisfies the Every Student Succeeds Act accountability requirements. The framework now includes a measure of college and career readiness, which makes up 25 percent of the total high school accountability score. The indicator counts dual or concurrent enrollment, CTE participation and completion, and attainment of the CCR diploma.

Assembly Bill 482 (2017) [↗](#)

This law directed the State Board of Education to define criteria for awarding CTE grants aligned with high-priority, in-demand, regionally relevant CTE programs.

S.B. 19 (2017) [↗](#)

S.B. 19 expanded access to dual credit opportunities by requiring all school districts and charter schools to enter into agreements with institutions of higher education to offer dual credit courses.

S.B. 516 (2017) [↗](#)

This law codified the Governor’s Office of Workforce Innovation for the New Nevada (OWINN), which promotes collaboration and cooperation among key state entities, as well as between the public and private sectors, focused on workforce development.

Nevada NSFY Impact *by the Numbers*

3,948

Number of high school students enrolled in some form of work-based learning in the 2018-19 school year

6,292

Number of high school students that have graduated with a CCR diploma since 2018

20

Combined number of school districts and charter schools that have designated work-based learning coordinators (16 out of 17 school districts in the state, plus four charter schools)

13

Combined number of school districts and charter schools that have work-based learning plans approved by the State Board of Education (nine school districts, plus four charter schools)

6

Number of new state-model CTE programs of study established in the priority industries (automation technology, biotechnology, community health science, cybersecurity, military science, and teaching and training)



“Through LifeWorks, our students are **empowered to explore and prepare for careers** that are in demand, high wage and highly skilled in Nevada.”

— Jhone M. Ebert, Superintendent of Public Instruction, State of Nevada



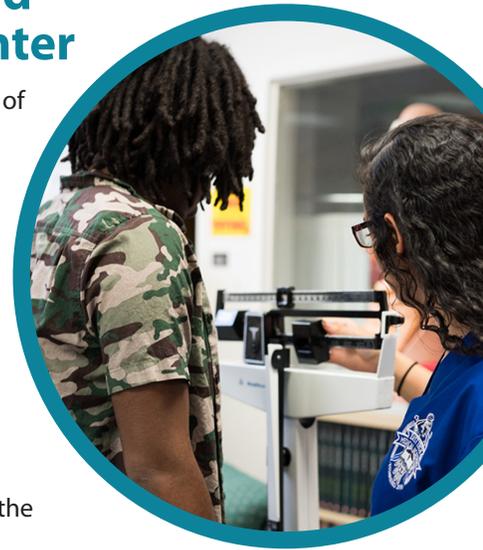
Sustainability Strategy



Nevada laid the groundwork for sustainability early in the NSFY initiative by codifying major policy priorities into state law and supporting a smooth transition during gubernatorial turnover. In addition, the state is integrating much of its work into its Perkins V and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act implementation efforts. With leadership and collaboration across state agencies, including the newly established OWINN, and strong support from Gov. Steve Sisolak, state leaders in Nevada are confident that the LifeWorks efforts will be sustained.

Nevada NSFY Local Impact: Cheyenne High School and Desert Rose Technical Center

Cheyenne High School in northern Las Vegas is one of 52 high schools in Clark County, the largest school district in Nevada. Students in Cheyenne can participate in CTE classes either at their home high school or at nearby Desert Rose Technical Center. Nevada's efforts to improve and expand high-quality career pathways have had a positive impact for Cheyenne High School students, who can earn industry-recognized credentials approved by OWINN, enroll in industry-aligned CTE programs that meet state criteria for quality, and participate in work-based learning opportunities facilitated by the district's new work-based learning coordinator.



ABOUT NSFY

NSFY is a \$75 million national initiative developed by JPMorgan Chase & Co. As part of this initiative, the Council of Chief State School Officers, Advance CTE and Education Strategy Group worked with states to improve their career readiness systems. NSFY consisted of two phases. During Phase One (March-October 2016), states conducted a comprehensive needs assessment and developed action plans to examine and transform their career readiness systems and expand the opportunities available to learners. During Phase Two (January 2017-December 2019), states executed their three-year plans to transform their career readiness systems.