

Nevada Educator Performance Framework – Validation Study Parameters

Validation Study Mission

The validation study mission is to provide a research basis for supporting the validity, feasibility, defensibility, and fairness of the Nevada Educator Performance Framework. This mission is in support of NRS 391.3125 (2) which states “[t]he primary purpose of an evaluation is to provide a format for constructive assistance.”

Background Information

In 2013-2014, many districts and schools in Nevada will be participating in a validation study of the Nevada Educator Performance Framework (NEPF). In 2011, Assembly Bill 222 created and charged the Teachers and Leaders Council (TLC) with making recommendations to the State Board of Education concerning the adoption of regulations for establishing a statewide performance evaluation system for teachers and administrators. In June 2013 the State Board of Education adopted these regulations.

SB 407 requires the State to conduct a limited field test of the NEPF instruments and processes, as part of a validation study of the entire NEPF. The study will utilize a sample of schools throughout Nevada in order to inform revisions and improvements to the adopted system. Site selection for this study will be purposeful and will begin by first determining which of Nevada’s schools would be interested in participating. WestEd and NDE will work from the list of volunteer sites to build an appropriate sample of Nevada Schools.

About This Study

The study is designed to determine the degree to which the NEPF is valid, feasible, defensible, and fair and will begin during the 2013-2014 school year. This study focuses on the observational instruments and other tools that are aligned to the standards identified by the TLC.

This study requires the involvement of at least 10% of all schools and educators (teachers and administrators), from at least six school districts (including Washoe and Clark counties).

What It Means to Participate in this Study

The study is designed to obtain system-specific information from a subsample of educators in selected schools. All educators at participating schools will be offered the opportunity to provide feedback about the process of implementing NEPF. Schools participating in the 2013-2014 study can be assured that no disaggregated results at the district-, school-, or individual-educator level will be calculated, shared, or reported. Reports from this study will provide information only about the degree to which the NEPF instruments measure educator effectiveness, and will not be used to evaluate individual educators or rate schools or districts.

Participation means that your district/school personnel may be contacted by WestEd staff to provide information related to measuring educator and student performance, and/or the training and professional development around those measurements. It is anticipated that on-site observations and data collection, primarily in the form of surveys, will not begin until Spring 2014.

How Sites Will Be Selected

Your school district is provided a list of your school sites. You will indicate which sites you would like to participate in the study. The Nevada Department of Education (NDE) will provide demographic information and aggregated student achievement data to WestEd for the indicated school sites.

Indicated sites which best meet the criteria for representation within the sample will be chosen to participate. WestEd and NDE will work to ensure that a variety of school types with a variety of student types participate in the study. Should the list of volunteered schools be insufficient to fulfill the needs of the sample, you may be contacted regarding recruitment of additional sites to participate.

Participation Benefits

Your district and your schools will be instrumental in shaping the refinements and the improvements to this important system. Additionally, participating sites will have first-hand experience in implementing components of the NEPF this year, in a no-fault environment, in preparation for full implementation in the 2014-15 school year.

Timeline

September 9th – Invitation to Districts to participate in the validation study

September 16th – Interested schools list from District due to WestEd

October 1st – Districts notified of selected participating schools

Spring 2014 – Observation and data collection

The NDE, in partnership with WestEd, will provide ongoing updates and information throughout this study.

Thank you in advance for helping move Nevada forward with this important work.

If you would like more information about the NEPF Validation Study, please contact Dr. Carol Hedgspeth, NEPF Validation Study Project Lead at WestEd, at 415-615-3260 or chedgsp@wested.org.