

*For immediate release  
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*August 27, 2008*

**Six schools gain empowerment status, thanks to grant**  
***Four other schools also will benefit from private funds***

**LAS VEGAS** – The Clark County School District received a grant from the Lincy Foundation that will provide funds needed to expand and assist the district's empowerment schools. Empowerment schools exercise greater autonomy in areas such as the schools' improvement goals, budget, curriculum, scheduling, governance and selection of staff.

Six schools – Bonner, Kelly and McCall Elementary Schools, Keller Middle School, and Cheyenne and Moapa Valley High Schools – are being added to the empowerment schools roster, with the foundation providing additional per pupil funds of \$600 per student. The foundation also will supplement four existing empowerment schools at \$200 per student, adding to CCSD's \$400 per student allocation for the programs at Booker, Bracken, Sewell and Kitty Ward Elementary Schools.

Each school will receive from \$100,000 to \$1.56 million from the foundation during each of the next three school years, based on the number of students at each school. The total contribution for all three years totals \$13.5 million, and will serve 6,300 students in grades K-12. The Lincy Foundation, the primary philanthropic vehicle of Kirk Kerkorian, has invested over \$700 million in humanitarian efforts. Special emphasis is placed in Nevada for causes including education, medical care, and the elderly.

CCSD Superintendent Walt Rulffes said, "Empowerment provides the schools with the resources and authority necessary to create solutions for their unique circumstances within a responsive and accountable environment. We are extremely grateful for the support and partnership of the Lincy Foundation as CCSD continues to shift more schools to the empowerment system. I am confident that the appreciation of

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the schools involved will become evident in terms of pupil achievement and other indicators of success.”

With the six new additions, 14 schools now participate in the empowerment school program, which began in 2006 as part of the district’s Superintendent’s Schools division.

According to Superintendent’s Schools Academic Manager Jeremy Hauser, “The CCSD empowerment model is transformational. It places resources and decision-making in the hands of those who are best equipped to meet the changing educational and social needs of their children – the school community.”

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