



# BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

*Special Edition*

## January 2008

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE 2007-2008 SCHOOL YEAR

- 02/18/08.....President's Day
- 03/17-21/08....Spring Break
- 03/24/08.....\* Classes Resume
- 04/14/08.....Staff Development Day
- 05/26/08.....Memorial Day
- 06/04/08.....Last Day of School (9mo)

### REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS

- February 14, 2008, 4:00 p.m.
- February 28, 2008, 4:00 p.m.
- March 13, 2008, 4:00 p.m.
- March 27, 2008, 4:00 p.m.
- April 10, 2008, 4:00 p.m.
- April 24, 2008, 4:00 p.m.
- May 8, 2008, 4:00 p.m.
- May 21, 2008, 4:00 p.m.
- May 22, 2008, 4:00 p.m.
- June 19, 2008, 4:00 p.m.
- June 26, 2008, 4:00 p.m.

The above board meetings are held in the Board Room of the:

Edward A Greer Education Center  
2832 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV 89121  
Access the district's website at [www.ccsd.net](http://www.ccsd.net)

### SPECIAL BOARD MEETINGS:

- February 11, 2008, 9:00 a.m.  
(Work Session)
- March 10, 2008, 9:00 a.m.  
(Work Session)
- April 14, 2008, 9:00 a.m.  
(Work Session)
- May 12, 2008, 9:00 a.m.  
(Work Session)
- June 16, 2008, 9:00 a.m.  
(Work Session)

The location for the above meetings will be announced as scheduled.

Access the district's website at [www.ccsd.net](http://www.ccsd.net) for board agendas and reference material  
Please contact the Board of School Trustees Office at 799-1072 for further information

### A Note From The Board Of School Trustees

As parents, students and staff prepare for the second half of the school year, the Clark County School District Board of School Trustees would like to inform you that the school district recently completed its yearly state mandated audit on financial statements. The audit found both the school district and Superintendent Rulfes to be in compliance with Board policies as outlined in Policy Governance, a governing method adopted by the Board to ensure that the district maintains a high level of accountability to members of the public. These results indicate that CCSD has presented financial reports that are fair and accurate.

Federal programs, which oversee several million dollars and grants such as Title I and English Language Acquisition, are audited separately under strict guidelines known as "the single audit." After a thorough internal examination, the auditors found no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. This means that the money set aside for key student programs in our community has been properly accounted for.

All district audits, including this most recent one, are done so that trustees can make sure the school district is following the proper protocol for keeping track of taxpayer dollars. As part of the process, the district received an unqualified opinion on its financial statements. This neutral review of school district finances is the highest level of assurance a governing entity can receive from an external auditor and helps to ensure that the integrity of education in our community has not been compromised.

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## 2008 GRADUATION CALENDAR

Need to know the date, time and location for your son or daughters graduation? Click on the below link or access the CCSD website for information.

[2008 Graduation Calendar](#)

## BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS

Interested in reading the Board Members Monthly Newsletters? Access your District Board Members [Monthly Newsletters](#)  
By clicking on the above link or access the CCSD website for information.

## Preparing for Proficiency Exams

High School graduation day represents one of the proudest days in a student's life. Surrounded by friends, family and educators, students celebrate a milestone in their academic journey and prepare for their future endeavors. However, before they can enjoy the fruit of their labors, they must meet the necessary state requirements to graduate. In order to receive a high school diploma, Clark County students must meet the requirements set by the school district in addition to passing all portions of the Nevada High School Proficiency Examinations.

The Nevada Proficiency Examination Program (NPEP) consists of different tests taken by students enrolled in public and charter schools in specific grades and specific programs. These tests include the High School Proficiency Examination in Reading and Mathematics; Writing Assessments; Iowa Test of Basic Skills; Iowa Tests of Educational Development; Criterion-Referenced Tests in Reading, Mathematics, and Science, Language Proficiency Assessment; Nevada Alternate Scales of Academic Achievement; and the National Assessment for Educational Progress.

This series of assessments and tests provides opportunities for school districts, schools, teachers, students, and parents to evaluate student achievement in the areas specified by state law. Additionally, the NPEP provides accountability to the public and to the Legislature and allows them to assess the education areas that may need adjustment. Test scores from the Criterion-Referenced Tests, the Writing Assessments, and the High School Proficiency Examinations are used to determine Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for every public school and



*Rigorous course work can help students prepare for proficiency exams*

charter school in Nevada as required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

In 2007, the hard work of many dedicated educators and students in CCSD resulted in an increase in the number of seniors who passed the proficiency exam in both math and reading. The increased pass rates are the result of several factors including the district's improved dropout rate during the last two school years. Additionally, a greater number of students continue to take online tutorials and enroll in higher level math courses that engage them in more rigorous course work.

Students take the reading, math and science portions of the proficiency exams during their sophomore year. The writing portion of the exam is administered in the fall semester of their junior year. Students may retake these tests any number of times, as allowed by the specific grade level they are enrolled in. However, prior to the third and subsequent attempts, students must receive remedial study and/or be enrolled in an approved course of study with the intent of completing the requirements for a high school diploma.

## A Note From The Board of School Trustees (cont.)

The opinions of the external auditors were based on tests of the district's compliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contract grant agreements and generally accepted accounting principles. In order to verify these requirements, auditors perform tests on several accounts payable and payroll transactions to verify their compliance with policies established by the Board.

The Board of School Trustees views these audits as the school district's equivalent of a medical check-up. Thanks to the hard work of the school district employees, CCSD continues to receive a clean bill of health from its financial auditors. The trustees take great pride in the results of this audit and it is our belief that the school district continues to follow its mission; Clark County School District students will have the knowledge, skills, attitudes and ethics necessary to succeed academically and will practice responsible citizenship at a justifiable cost.

### CCSD Fast Facts 2007-2008

- Is the fifth largest school district in the United States with a student enrollment of 308,783
- Operates 341 schools
- Encompasses 7,910 square miles
- Employs 38,237 people
- Has 1,356 school buses

For a complete list of CCSD Fast Facts, visit [www.ccsd.net/news/](http://www.ccsd.net/news/)