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AB 510
Open Testimony
April 7, 2003

For the record my name is Tya Mathis and I will be talking about the need for an elective course that will better prepare our students for the Nevada Proficiency examination as well as both the ACT and Sat standardized tests.

Currently, in the state of Nevada all students must pass the proficiency examination in order to receive a high school diploma. I do not believe that this test should be the only factor that prohibits an individual from graduation and perhaps, higher education. It is my belief that it is the states duty to offer every opportunity for students in Nevada to learn the material in which they are being tested on. All students learn at different rates and some require different ways of teaching.

AB 510 would require school districts to offer an elective course that would assist students with the proficiency examination and better prepare them for college entrance examinations. This course would teach test taking skills and focus on the areas that the student(s) is struggling with at that time. This course would in fact give students the extra attention that may be needed in a certain area of study. It would also prepare them for future testing like the ACT & SAT examinations.

AB 510 is a bill that if passed would give all students in Nevada every opportunity to be successful not only in high school but in higher education.

(-----And now the presentation-----)

Assembly Bill 510

An Elective Course that will prepare students
for the Nevada Proficiency Exam & College
Entrance Exams (ACT & SAT)

Summary: Requires the State Board
of Education to offer a course that will
prepare pupils for the high school
proficiency examination and for
college entrance exams.

Purpose or Intent of this Bill:

- To offer all students in Nevada an additional opportunity to be successful on the proficiency exam and all college entrance exams

- This course will focus on test taking skills
- It will also review the subject(s) that the student needs to focus on in order to be successful in higher education
- However, the Nevada Proficiency exam and both the ACT & SAT exams will be the primary focus of this course.

Costs of Administering the High School Proficiency Examination:

-Costs for the High School Proficiency Examination are based upon five administrations

-The Administrations occur in November, February, April, May and the Summer.

-The estimated per pupil cost for each administration is \$29

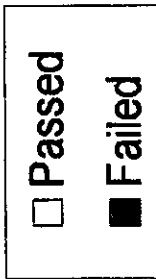
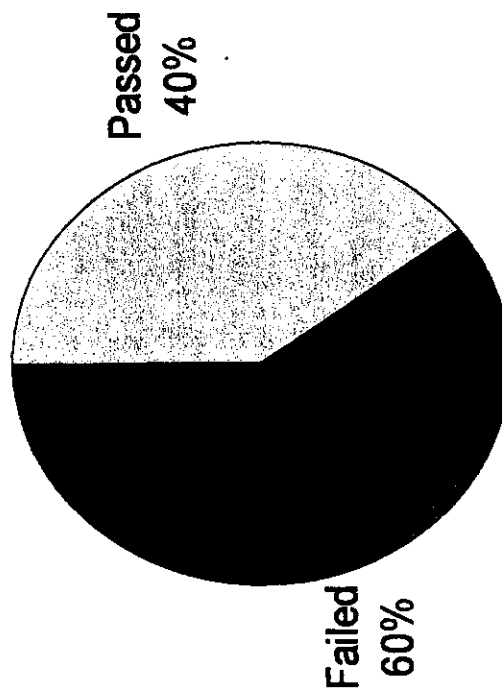
November	February	April	May	Summer
\$200,000	\$114,000	\$1,014,000	\$43,000	\$29,000

Proficiency Results:

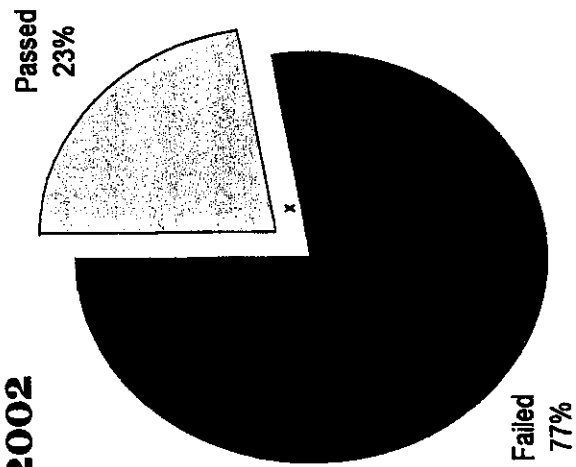
■ **November 2002 Exams**
(This school year)

■ **April 2002 Exams**
(Last school year)

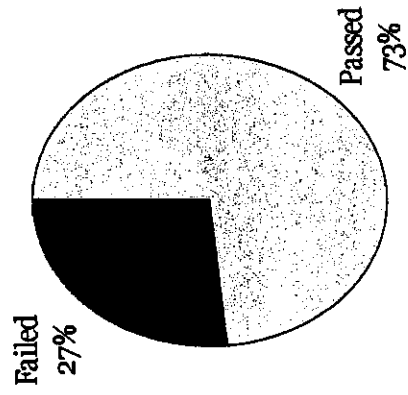
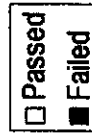
**Grade 12
Reading Results
November 2002**



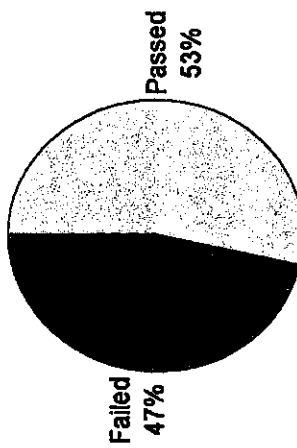
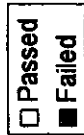
**Grade 12
Math Results
November 2002**



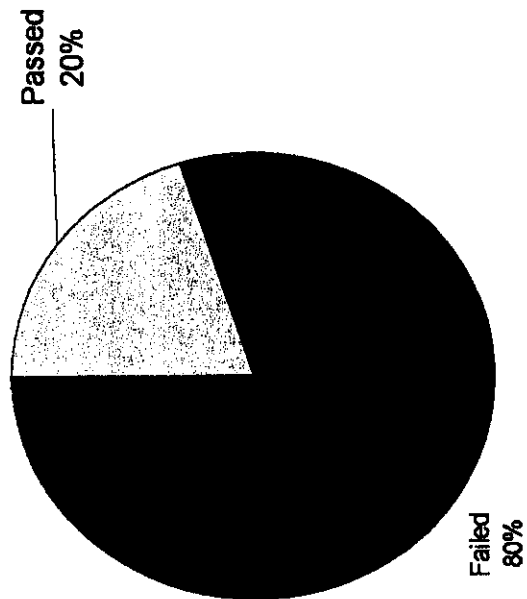
**Grade 12
Writing Results
November 2002**



**Grade 11
Reading Results
April 2002**



**Grade 11
Math Results
April 2002**



"Those results were not cumulative results over multiple testing. They were passing rates for only those test dates. The February 2003 results are being edited by the CCSD Central Information Systems and should be available in a few weeks."

**~John Carpenter
Administrative Specialist & Evaluator, CCSD
Student Support Services Division
Department of Grants, Development and Administration**

Amendment Number 290:

The purpose of this piece of AB 510 is not to penalize any school district which currently has high passing rates on the proficiency examination. But, rather to encourage districts with lower passing rates to offer an elective course in all high schools.

Which is why the following changes were made:

1. The State Board of Education will not have to include college preparation in its prescribed course
2. The State Board of Education must instead include in its informational pamphlet a recommended course of study to prepare for college entrance examinations
3. The requirement that local school districts offer the prescribed course of study to prepare for the high school proficiency exam is changed to a grant of permission. School boards of trustees may offer the course as an elective.



Finally...

**If this course is implemented it
will help with the greatest
student achievement...**

**High school graduation and
being successful once in
higher education.**