

# With NCLB not a factor, Nevada looks at education planning

By Paul Takahashi, Las Vegas Sun

After months of reviews and revisions, U.S. Department of Education approved Nevada's waiver from the stringent requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act.

The waiver no longer binds Nevada's struggling schools to the 2001 law's key mandate that all Nevada children be 100 percent proficient in math and reading by 2014.

Instead, the waiver announcement on Wednesday heralds a new school accountability system for the Nevada Department of Education, said state Superintendent Jim Guthrie.

The new accountability system includes a different method of measuring student achievement, more rigorous national standards and new school and teacher evaluation systems, he said.

"The time for excuses has stopped," Guthrie said, citing a recent national report that ranked Nevada dead last in education. "By 2020 – on every important measure of student achievement – Nevada will be at least at or better than the national median."

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