



<b>Name of Project:</b>	<b>Pershing County High School</b>
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<b>Number of students in FY09:</b>	<b>55</b>

### **Pershing County High School (PCHS) GEAR UP Abstract**

Pershing County High School (PCHS) is in a rural school district largely populated by ranching, mining and service industry families. The postsecondary expectations have traditionally been low, reflecting achievement levels in Nevada statewide. Currently, the district wide student population consists of 9.4% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 1.8% Asian/Pacific Islander, 26.1% Hispanic, 0.6% African American and 62.1% Caucasian, with the individual schools reflecting this approximate breakdown. Additionally, 19.5% of our secondary students qualify for an IEP and our transient rate is 20.5%.

Pershing County's vision is to raise the educational goals of our students and their parents – creating an atmosphere in which postsecondary education is not only a possibility, but an expectation. Pershing County High School will focus the 2008-2009 activities on these goals: Competency, School Improvement and System Building and Access. PCHS will attend to the Competency goal through academic planning and monitoring, parent outreach and Regional Professional Development Project (RPDP) services. In the 2008-2009 academic year, Career Cruising™ will be utilized to enhance the Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) for the freshmen. The GEAR UP Coordinator will work collaboratively with the counselor to review these and facilitate their use in class scheduling and forecasting. In addition to the tutorial support available from individual teachers before and after school, students can utilize the NovaNet program on site for credit recovery or to address gaps. Summer school remediation will also be offered, along with the Summer Enrichment program.

PCHS will implement activities to support the School Improvement goals and System Building through a full-time RPDP Regional Trainer. The trainer will facilitate ongoing, professional development related to vertical alignment between the elementary, middle and high schools and to the goals of the District and School Improvement Plans. The trainer will also foster vertical articulation between Pershing County Middle School (PCMS) and PCHS through establishment of the core Professional Learning Communities (PLC) which meet throughout the year. As the GEAR UP liaison at the high school, the trainer will work closely with the GEAR UP coordinator to design parent, teacher and student activities. Further, PCHS will incorporate the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) results to integrate the data into instructional decision making, supporting the goals of both middle and high School Improvement Teams to increase math and language arts scores.