

2. Clark County School District Mariachi Education Program Las Vegas, Nevada

Standard	Lacking	Meets	Exceeds
Curriculum and Scheduling	4.3%	4.3%	91.6%
Staffing	20%	.6%	73.3%
Materials/Equipment	0%	9%	90.9%
Facilities	0%	0%	100%
Total Accumulative	6.1%	3.4%	88.9%

Curriculum and Scheduling

Strengths

- The curriculum is based on content and achievement standards of the state of Nevada.
- The curriculum accommodates K-12 sequential mariachi instruction.
- The program includes 6 middle schools, 4 high schools and one fine arts school.
- The program is approved and funded by the Clark County School District and Board of Supervisors.
- The program hosts strings and guitar programs at the elementary levels.
- By next school year the program will host over 1,800 students.
- Each school site teaches 6 instructional periods of mariachi per day.
- Each school accommodates special education and students with disabilities through an IEP or Individualized Education Program.
- One site, The Las Vegas Academy, accommodates exceptional students in the fine arts.
- The program is dedicated to recognizing and embracing diversity.

Weaknesses

- The only possible challenge with the program is trying to keep up with the recruitment of new teachers due to the fast growth of the program itself.

Staffing

Strengths

- If the teachers in this program are not certified by the state, they must complete a Business in Industry Vocational Certification program along with attending on-going professional development.
- Javier Trujillo is the full-time positioned project coordinator who oversees the program and provides leadership to the team of teachers.
- All teachers are allowed prep periods, lunch and travel time in their normal workday.

- Teachers are allowed 4 paid days of in-service education and 2 paid days to attend educational conferences such as The American String Conference, MENC National Conference, Las Cruces International Mariachi Conference.
- The Clark County District and the Mariachi Task Force has successfully organized an annual mariachi conference in its third year.

Weaknesses

- One possible concern is the absence of the state certified teacher in the classroom. Although, if project teachers are learning pedagogy from vocational training, this could be a valued option.
- The average teacher to student ratio is 1:35. However, the program is always increasing the number of faculty.

Materials and Equipment

Strengths

- The Clark County School District as well as each school site supplies over and beyond, the budget for materials and equipment including discographies, videos, Music scores, computers, music software, multimedia equipment, video cameras and printers.
- All schools at all sites receive equal budget from the District.
- A full set of mariachi instruments is automatically budgeted for each site at the start of each school year.
- BER, Beyond Economical Repair program replaces instruments if needed.

Weaknesses

- There are no flaws in the area of Materials and Equipment.

Facilities

Strengths

- The support for education of the arts is strong in Clark County District.
- Most of the facilities are state of the art.
- The program scored 100% in the area of Facilities.

Weaknesses

- The only challenge of the program is trying to accommodate its rapid growth.