Nevada Ready! PreK Cost, Equity, and Access Study

A working session with the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

January 18, 2023

Introduction

In the summer of 2021, WestEd partnered with the Nevada Department of Education to understand and determine the cost of providing prekindergarten programming through the Nevada Ready! State Pre-K (NR!PK) program.

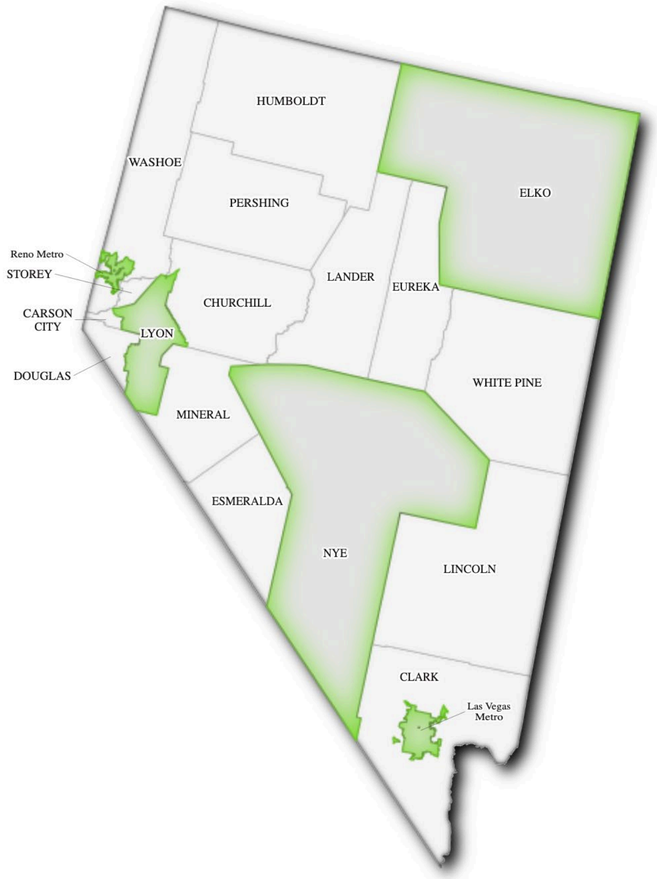
WestEd has compiled a variety of data sources to arrive at an estimated range for the per-child cost of the current NR!PK standards. This presentation provides **interim findings** and seeks **to engage the field** on these questions. A final report with updated findings will be published in summer 2023.

Cost Study: Research Questions

1. How much does it cost to deliver NR!PK programming in Nevada? What are the factors that create this range?

2. What is the gap between what Nevada spends and the total cost of providing NR!PK?

5 Case Study Regions



Applying the ‘Ingredients Method’ to Estimate the Cost of the Current NR!PK Standards

How much does it cost to deliver the current NR!PK standards?

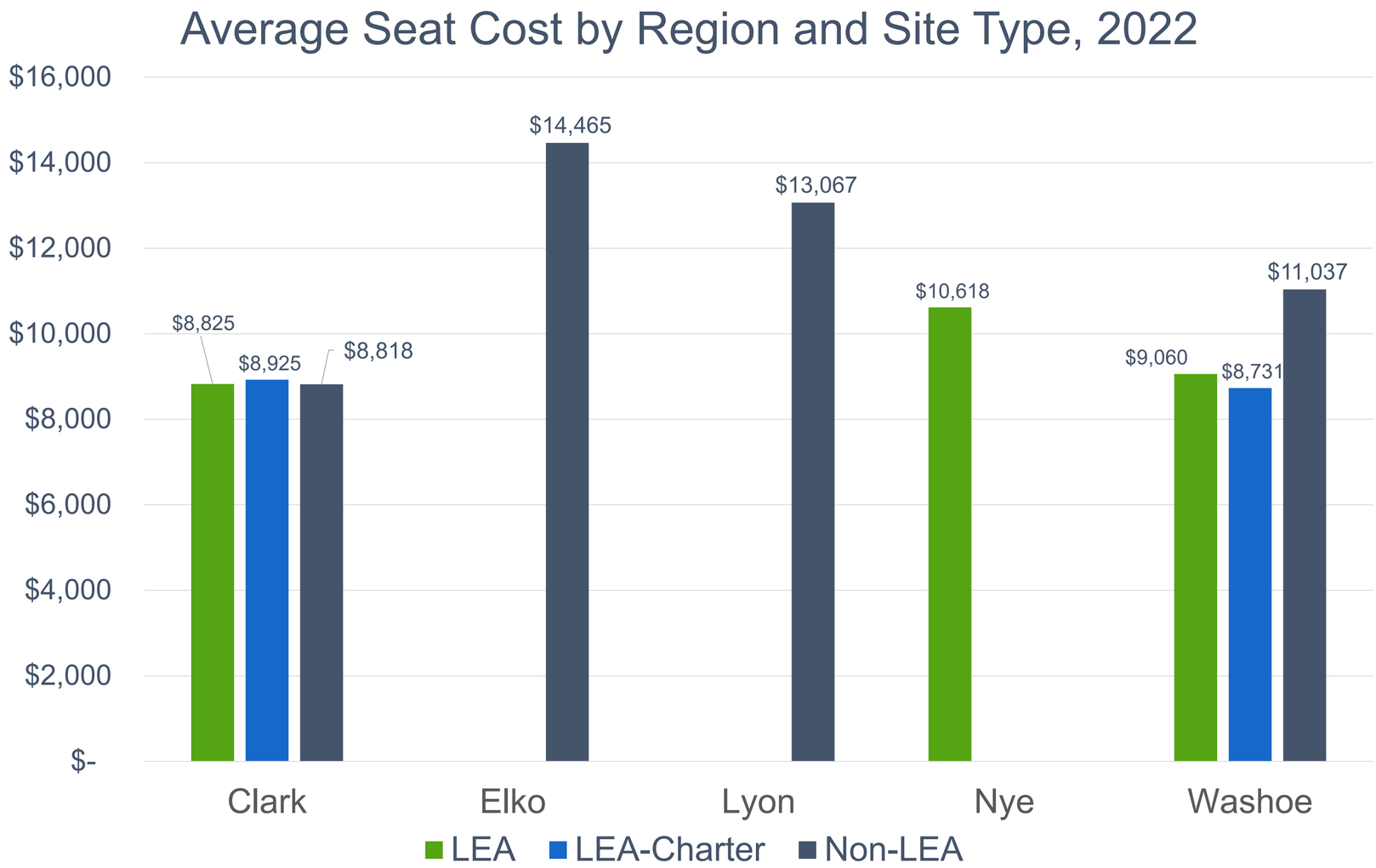
$8,731-$14,465 per child

What are the factors that create this range?

1. Location
2. Site Type
3. Salaries
4. Student Teacher Ratio

Factors 1 and 2: Region and Site Type

Differences due to site type are inconsistent, but in general, LEAs and LEA charters have similar cost profiles while non-LEA sites differ.



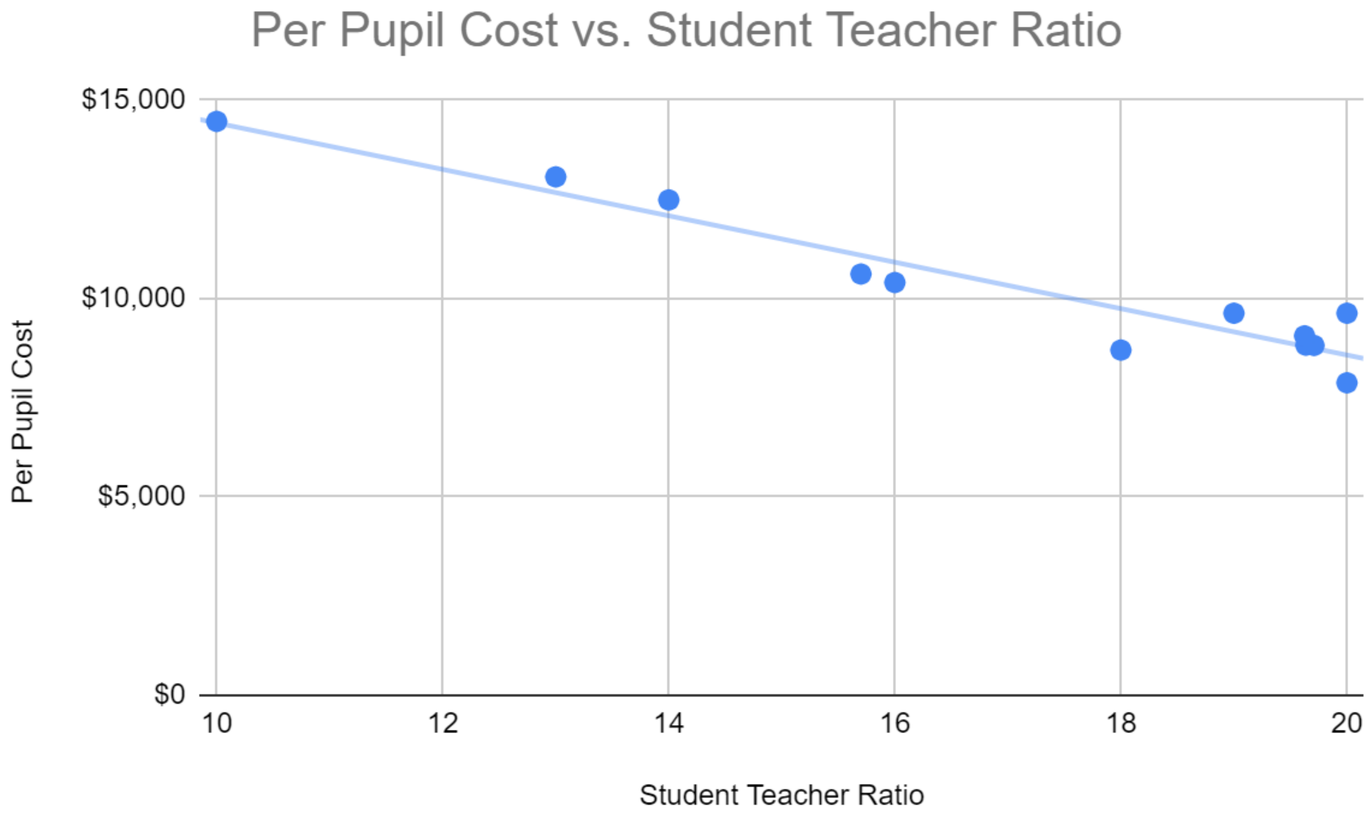
Factor 3: Salaries

Average salaries are highly inconsistent, ranging from $38,518 to $61,338.

We're competing against McDonald's and Target with paying our staff. We are getting more candidates who are not qualified but those who are qualified and are already in the field are leaving for better paying jobs.

Factor 4: Student Teacher Ratio

There is a cost advantage to larger classes.



What other factors might be considered that drive variation in cost?

What additional information or analyses could inform potential NR!PK funding policy adjustments?

Thank you!

We look forward to seeing you on March 8 to share equity findings and discuss preliminary recommendations.

To ask a question or to share information with us please contact:

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