The Sun’s yearlong project charted the triumphs and successes, the trials and tribulations of the School District’s great experiment with education in Las Vegas.

Over the past two decades, when Clark County was on the fast track of growth and development, the School District was too busy opening schools to give adequate attention to the quality of what was being taught, and how what was being taught was measured.

This is still an issue today. And Dwight Jones is in his office, running on four hours of sleep. There’s not enough time in the day. He says, to address all the problems facing the Clark County School District.

So much to do. So much at stake. And as Jones begins his first full school year as superintendent, he sounds overwhelmed.

“I believe we’ve got to change this whole system,” Jones would say later, his eyes snapping but determined. “We’ve got thousands of kids who are in harm’s way right now. We’re working as fast as we can to save some of them.”

The turnaround is about more than improving test scores. It is about changing attitudes, expectations, and the mindset of students, parents, and educators.

The unprecedented turnaround effort started last spring. Principals and teachers have been replaced, pop-ta-take-delivered, curricula revised, campuses repaired and cleaned.

Now the hard part begins. School starts Monday.

So too begins the Sun’s yearlong project to chronicle the triumphs and successes, the trials and tribulations of the School District’s great experiment with education in Las Vegas: the turnaround.

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