

# Winning Big-----FAQs

On November 16, 2019 at a general member meeting, members approved launching the most important campaign CCEA has done to raise a billion dollars more each year for our public education system and to pass legislation that reduces class sizes. Below is a recap of key questions.

## **What did members pass and why?**

A campaign to raise \$1 billion and get Class Size Reduction (CSR) legislation passed. Running a campaign meant we had to raise dues by \$9.00 to fund the campaign. The campaign is called Strategic Horizon because CCEA believes if we do not act on shaping our future then no one else will.

## **What does this mean moving forward?**

It means we will begin the process of filing for initiative petitions (IPs) to raise revenue for state's public education. We will begin to educate our members and the community around this effort to win support. CCEA will work with the Governor and Legislative Leadership to find long-term solutions to fund education. This also means that we will continue to work in a bi-partisan way, because it takes Republicans and Democrats to support raising funding for education. It means that thousands of educators, parents, students, and the community must get involved.

## **What is an initiative petition and what do we expect it to do?**

The initiative petition (IP) allows the voters to put a measure on the ballot that would raise revenue if the state legislative body doesn't do it. We will need to get 120,000 signatures from voters who voted in the 2018 election in all four congressional districts in Nevada. It will require filing an IP with the Secretary of State, which then will have to be approved by the State. Once approved, we can collect signatures. When enough signatures have been collected and verified, then the initiative will be placed before the 2021 Nevada Legislature to act upon. If they don't act upon it, the initiative goes to the ballot in 2022.

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## **What will the campaign do and how will the dues increase be used?**

The campaign will go toward supporting and qualifying an initiative petition to be placed on the ballot to raise taxes, specifically for public education, as well as other efforts to win funding and pass legislation to reduce class sizes. The dues were raised explicitly for this campaign, and there will be regular reports on expenditures as well as controls to ensure the money is spent the way it was approved.

## **If we do not adopt the campaign, what is the alternative?**

Too many signs are pointing to the lack of new revenue during the 2021 Legislative Session. Without this new revenue, we cannot expect more funds to be put in education. Economists predict a flat economy. Medicaid costs will grow for the State as Federal dollars for that program diminish. Over 20,000 state workers will be bargaining a contract, and the SB543 Commission on School Funding will come out with a recommendation on funding. All of these issues and more, strongly suggest that without new revenue, then we cannot expect much in the 2021 Session. Our class sizes will grow, our contract will not be honored, and the perpetual cycle we have been in the past several years will continue.

## **What would CSR legislation look like and do we expect to get something passed?**

This is a complex issue. Last Session lawmakers called for a study. No more studies; we need action. We need to hire tens of thousands of teachers, we need to build more schools and classrooms, and we need to pay current educators a salary that will get them to stay. This all starts with passing funding to support each of these goals. We will then help develop a multi-year plan to attract, hire, and retain tens of thousands of teachers, as well as build more schools and classrooms. A key part of our campaign will be to pass legislation that reduces class sizes in our schools.

## **What does this mean for members?**

This is about our future. Our past experience over the last few Legislative Sessions has demonstrated that CCEA can win. Now is the time to win BIG. Our students and our schools need adequate funding **NOW**, not sometime in the future. We need a billion dollars more each year to fund our schools adequately. We believe the community is ready and will support this effort and elected officials will respond.

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