



Clark County Education Association



March 23, 2021

Nevada Assembly Committee on Education
C/O Chair Assemblywoman Shannon Bilbray-Axelrod
401 S Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Re: Public Comment for March 23, 2021, Assembly Education Hearing AB67: Revises provisions relating to education. (BDR 34-293).

Hello and thank you, Committee Chairwoman Bilbray-Axelrod, and committee members. My name is Dr. Brenda Pearson and I am here representing the Clark County Education Association, the bargaining partner of CCSD, 18,000 licensed professionals strong.

CCEA is in testifying in neutral on AB67 and would like to thank this committee for bringing this bill forth. This bill provides much needed clarity to ensure our restorative practices are implemented. The addition of definitions for “expulsion,” “permanent expulsion,” and “suspension” will pair very well with the additional requirements prescribed in AB194 and will help to standardize the approach to restorative justice across all seventeen school districts. However, the designation to include pupils with disability in student disciplinary procedures may end up negative impacting students more than intended. This session, the judiciary committees have heard many bills discussing the competency of a minor and whether that competency should be measured similarly to an adult. Much like that quandary, we must ask whether a child with a physical or intellectual disability should be treated similarly to any other child when we are already trying to change our approach to prevent recidivism.

The successful implementation of AB67, AB194 and preceding student discipline bills must be built upon a strong foundation of restorative practices. Today, there is no such foundation in Clark County so a movement from traditional behavior management to restorative practices must encompass robust supports, including ongoing training and coaching. In short, a move to restorative practices requires both a change in the behavior of the educator AND the student.

CCEA appreciates the intent of this bill, but we ask that the sponsors look to the significant publication materials on juvenile justice to ensure that these changes are something that will be standardized, unbiased, and easy for our educators to adopt and students to understand. Most importantly, we ask that this committee consider AB194 and the need to an appeal process to ensure fairness and due process.

Thank you again to the committee for hearing this bill, and we look forward to continuing the restorative justice conversation as it pertains to education.

Respectfully,

Brenda Pearson, Ph.D.
Director of Strategic Policy Initiatives

CCEA

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the union
of teaching
professionals

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