

## CCEA Legislative Update

*As we get deeper into the 2021 Legislative Session, we want to make sure our members are updated on the important pieces of legislation happening up north as well as CCEA's objectives. For a look at all bills we've commented on, along with our statements, visit our [website](#).*

### **Our Fight for Funding**

#### ***Funding SB543 the Pupil Centered Funding Plan***

In 2019, Nevada Legislature and the Governor passed and signed into law a new funding plan for K-12 that would be more equitable to address the needs of all of our students. However, this legislation, which is scheduled to be implemented in July 2021, has not been funded. CCEA's number one legislative objective this session is to see that SB543, the New Pupil Centered Funding Plan, is funded and implemented in July 2021. The Governor's proposal on SB543 underfunds K-12 and uses a 'phased in' approach. This approach is NOT SB543, but a hybrid of the current Nevada plan. Governor Sisolak should abandon this proposal.

Nevada will get \$3 billion of federal dollars under the American Rescue Plan passed by Congress. CCEA is advocating that the K-12 budget should have a significant portion of that federal money to fund SB543 in the tune of an additional \$800 million over the next two years. However, we know that this is one time money and we are also advocating that the State pass new revenue, of at least \$200 million more annually, specifically to fund SB543.

Though Legislative leadership rejected the two IPs (IP1 Gaming tax, and IP2 Local School Support Tax) that CCEA qualified for the 2022 ballot, we have made clear to Legislative leadership that we are not wed to those tax measures to fund education if an alternative revenue solution is adopted. If an alternative is found, CCEA can withdraw our IPs.

## ***Economic Recovery and Diversification***

We cannot continue relying on gaming and tourism as our principal industries and sources of revenue for our state. We know that when these two industries crash, we have the highest unemployment rates in the country. The pandemic has made the case that we need to diversify our economy.

CCEA has advocated that any strategy that is about economic recovery must have, as part of that program, investing in our education delivery system (i.e. K-20). This is critical in attracting and growing businesses in Nevada. Our education delivery system is part of developing a workforce for our economy. CCEA has advocated that any economic development plan should focus on diversifying our economy. We commissioned a study by the Anderson Economic Group and shared that with Legislators. That study pointed out areas of economic diversification for Nevada and legislation that can be passed that will enhance economic growth.

The Governor's Office on Economic Development (GOED) has proposed economic development and recovery plans. GOED addresses the needs in higher education but leaves out any investment in K-12. Our K-12 system is the base of the education delivery system. 90% of all students that go into our higher education system come from our public K-12 schools. We need to invest in our K-12 system, not cut back as the Governor has proposed. In order for industries to grow and diversify, we need to align our K-20 education delivery system with the needs of workforce development.



## Bill Updates

### AB57: Pauses Student Learning Goal's until 2022-23

- **Summary:** AB57 would remove the 15% contribution of the SLG to a teacher's or administrator's evaluation until spring of 2023. The 15% would return to the evaluation in the 2023-24 school year.
- **CCEA's position:** In Support
- **Status of the bill:** Heard Feb. 18, went to the Assembly Ed work session on March 9.

### AB255+ SB111: School Board Governance Bills

- **Summary:** Both of these bills pertain to the election and appointment of school board trustees. AB255 suggests 4 trustees be elected and 3 be appointed; whereas SB111 suggests 3 trustees be elected and 4 be appointed.
- **CCEA's position:** In Support of AB55
- **Status of the bill:** No hearing for either bill has happened or been scheduled yet.

### SB83: Pauses or Waives Standardized Testing in Accordance to Federal Guidelines

- **Summary:** This bill authorizes the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) to temporarily waive or pause standardized testing *if* federal guidelines waive or pause similar requirements.
- **CCEA's position:** In Support
- **Status of the bill:** Heard and passed in Senate Ed on Feb. 3, heard in Assembly Ed Feb. 23, went to work session on March 9.

### SB120: Administrator Accountability Bill

- **Summary:** This bill provides accountability measures for administrators to ensure school climate and student outcome are put top of mind.
- **CCEA's position:** In Support
- **Status of the bill:** No hearing or scheduled hearing yet.

### SB173: Back on Track Act

- **Summary:** This bill will let school districts develop a plan to address learning loss experienced from COVID-19, including a summer school program.
- **CCEA's position:** In Neutral. Looking for clarification on NDE's role in approving plans, as well as their role as fiscal mediator. We also believe educators deserve more compensation than their regular contract rate to teach over the summer.
- **Status of the bill:** Heard March 17, next stop work session, date TBD.

### SB224: Surplus, Transfer and Reassignment Bill

- **Summary:** This bill requires school districts and schools to abide by mandatory subjects of bargaining including surplus, transfer reassignment and placement.
- **CCEA's position:** No position yet. CCEA is working with the bill sponsor on an amendment.
- **Status of the bill:** No hearing or scheduled hearing yet.

## **SB76:** Changes to Commissions and Committees

- **Summary:** This bill requires the State Board of Education to submit a plan to improve student achievement every 5 years. It also changes or abolishes some commissions, councils and boards. Specifically, SB76 changes the appointment of the Teacher and Leader Council to include an appointment by CCEA.
- **CCEA's position:** In Support.
- **Status of the bill:** Heard in Senate Ed on Feb. 17, no action.

## **SB151:** Accountability for Mental Health Professional Ratios

- **Summary:** This bill ensures that every school district reflects upon progress made to get to reduce the ratios of our social and behavioral support system (e.g. school psychologists, counselors, social workers) in our K-12 education system.
- **CCEA's position:** In Support
- **Status of the bill:** Heard with no action in Senate Ed on March 10

## **SB169:** Trauma and Other Health Impairment

- **Summary:** This bill replaces emotional disturbance with emotional or behavioral dysregulation to align with federal terminology. It also introduces trauma to the list of health impairments in which students receive support.
- **CCEA's position:** In Opposition
- **Status of the bill:** No hearing or scheduled hearing yet. CCEA is adamantly opposed to this bill as written.

## **Other CCEA Lobbyist Activity**

CCEA's lobby team and members have had **72 meetings** since 2/1/21 with legislators, agencies, and stakeholders; **19 public comments** offered- **15 in support, 4 in neutral, 5 amendments** offered, **4 accepted**. There are over **330 bills** that we are tracking. Outside of education, we are tracking legislation as it relates to economic development, workforce development, revenue, legislative governance, collective bargaining, mental health and overall state budgets.

## **We Need You: Sign up & Get Involved Today**

We need your involvement. Contact CCEA if you are interested in getting involved; especially giving public testimony on key legislation that impacts education and educators.

To all CCEA educators, please get involved and **sign the petition** addressed to the Governor and legislators that demands funding SB543 the new Pupil Centered Funding Plan.