

March 29, 2021

Nevada Senate Committee on Education  
C/O Chair Senator Moises Denis  
401 S Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

Re: Public Comment for March 29, 2021: Revises provisions relating to education. (BDR 34-181).

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, my name is Hawah Ahmad, and I am here representing the Clark County Education Association. The Clark County Education Association is the official bargaining partner for the Clark County School District, representing the 18,000 licensed professionals who recently celebrated one year of distance learning. CCEA engages and promotes bipartisan advocacy for the advancement of educational policy in Clark County and the State of Nevada.

CCEA supports SB215. Though the COVID-19 pandemic made educators across the state, and especially in Clark County School District, transition to distance learning with little notice, our educators have done everything they can to assess the challenges that have occurred with distance learning. As we return to in-person learning, we know two things to be true: the digital divide created by the COVID-19 pandemic uncovered inequities in education between the “haves” and the “have nots” predominantly negatively impacting students of color, and we also know that to bring Nevada’s K-12 education system into the modern age will take significant investment from stakeholders and taxpayers.

However, when we live in what is supposed to be the greatest country in the world, we must ask why we don’t already leverage technology to help our students become the innovators of tomorrow, and we must ask why it has taken until 2021 to get competency-based learning to allow children to advance in their education. Because of COVID-19, we have had to learn new tricks in record time, however, with additional training, investments in technology infrastructure, and processes created for distance learning, Nevada may be able to utilize and leverage technology to provide an education to our students that focuses and promotes their academic growth.

CCEA supports SB215, and we look forward to working with our bargaining partner to create and implement distance learning over the long term that will provide more options to our students and more education and opportunity for creativity to our teachers.

Respectfully,

Hawah Ahmad  
Lobbyist  
Clark County Education Association