

April 6, 2021

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

**Re: Public Comment for April 6, 2021: AB266: AB266: Revises provisions governing class size.
(BDR 34-704)**

Good afternoon, Committee Chair Bilbray-Axelrod, and committee members. My name is Marie Neisess, and I am the president of the Clark County Education Association. The Clark County Education Association (CCEA) is the official bargaining partner for the Clark County School District and represents more than 18,000 licensed professionals.

CCEA is in support of AB266 and would like thank Assemblywoman Miller and Anderson for bringing this bill forward. Accurate reporting on class size ratios is essential to ensure we have a precise student-to-classroom teacher ratio. Sections 1 and 2 of this bill exclude peripheral educators who should not be part of the count that determines actual class size ratios. Past practices of counting other licensed professionals and other educators inaccurately skewed the ratios to give a false impression of our classroom environment.

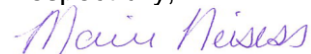
For years Clark County teachers have had to deal with having the largest class sizes in the nation. While class sizes vary in the Clark County School District depending on the school's location or the grade level, historically underrepresented students have large class sizes and often are taught by unlicensed educators. According to Data Insights, 87 percent of all Nevada students have a larger class size than recommended. All students deserve the best education possible. Larger class sizes limit the amount of time a classroom teacher can spend with small groups and individual students.

As a former first and third-grade teacher, my class sizes were consistently larger than the recommended ratios and many of my third-grade students were two to three grade levels behind. The size of a classroom is challenging because it limits the ability to move around. Larger class sizes impacted how often I could meet with my students for small group instruction or individual instruction. Ensuring all students' cognitive abilities and skills are met is often challenging. We must take steps to ensure we provide the best education possible for all students.

In addition to the friendly amendments, CCEA believes that this bill will provide much needed transparency and accountability on actual class size ratios and the number of classroom teaching positions filled by full-time licensed educators to give every stakeholder and legislator a better picture on how to approach increasing the quality of education in Nevada.

AB266 is a proactive step in reducing class sizes to the recommended ratios. I urge you to vote yes on AB266.

Respectfully,



Marie Neisess, President
Clark County Education Association