



Clark County Education Association



April 6, 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 April 6, 2021, Assembly Education Hearing AB415: Provides for an interim study on public school accountability (BDR S-752).

Good Afternoon Committee Chairwoman Bilbray-Axelrod and committee members,

My name is Dr. Brenda Pearson and I am here representing 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. We engage in bipartisan advocacy for advancing public education in Clark County and Nevada.

CCEA is speaking in support of Assembly Bill 415. The intent of Nevada's school accountability system is to hold schools and districts responsible for raising student achievement and inform timely supports to make improvements when necessary, but Nevada's School Performance Framework has historically fallen short of that aim. Nevada's system has been built solely on compliance, which has informed districts, schools, and the public of what outcomes students met *without* explanation of why they met them. Nevada needs a system that fosters a culture of continuous improvement, rather than shame and embarrassment.

As a prior educator in the Clark County School District, the NSPF was viewed as an incomplete picture of what schools were able to accomplish. School ratings did not *inform* progress but instead *deterred* educators from serving in schools that earned a one- or two-star rating. Chronically underperforming schools seemed to be boxed-in year after year, having to absorb numerous special programs, often burdening an academically struggling school.

Nevada needs to flip the script on its school accountability system. School accountability systems should be informed by both macro and micro-level data sources and should drive toward: (1) a comprehensive understanding of student and school success; (2) a culture of continuous improvement; and (3) equal education opportunities making college and career readiness a reality for all Nevada's students. For these reasons, CCEA is in support of AB415. At the end of the day, we have just withstood the impossible, and instead of returning to the same, inefficient systems, we support looking to the future, exploring reforms, and most importantly changing the culture of education in Nevada to put our students and educators first.

Respectfully,

Brenda Pearson, Ph.D.
Clark County Education Association