

OFFICIAL BARGAINING PARTNER TO CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, REPRESENTING MORE THAN 18,000 LICENSED PROFESSIONALS.

May 5, 2021

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

**Re: Public Comment for May 5, 2021: AB195: Revises provisions relating to pupils who are English learners. (BDR 34-174)**

Good afternoon Senator Denis and Committee members,

My name is Marie Neisess, President of the Clark County Education Association.

CCEA is testifying in support of Assembly Bill 195, and we thank Assemblywoman Torres for bringing this bill forth. This bill is very timely as we transition from the Nevada Plan to the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan. Instead of designated Zoom and Victory schools, we will have schools that provide Zoom and Victory services for their EL and at-risk students by utilizing the EL and at-risk weights. Additionally, NDE has already begun the process of budgeting for translation services of our documents.

However, as we proceed with the PCFP and the designation of the State's COVID-19 Pandemic Relief funds, we know that we must up our data collection game. Currently, we do not collect the amount of data we need to best guide our strategic investment in EL students to ensure that they have opportunities connected to outcomes like high school graduation. At first, this data will probably not be as attractive as we want it to be. We know that the pandemic has exacerbated many issues related to the historic underfunding of our education delivery system. However, with good data, we can understand the correlation between licensed educators, EL students, and EL services. Lastly, CCEA is in support of an EL bill of rights.

As a classroom teacher, I taught only at Title 1 schools and I know first-hand the needs of our EL and at-risk students. All children deserve a quality education that ensures their academic success and prepares them for the future.

CCEA would be remiss if we ignored that this data will only show improvement if we invest in our students and invest in the PCFP. CCEA understands that to pass new revenue to fund the pupil-centered funding plan, we need a bipartisan effort led by the Governor. Any decision short of passing new revenue this session communicates that being ranked at the bottom of the Nation in academic achievement is acceptable. However, with this bill, we will no longer be able to ignore the relationship between our student's achievement and EL services. We need you, as Legislators, to make the choice and lead on revenue to ensure that we put our money where our mouths are.

Thank you to Assemblywoman Torres for being a leader and providing evidence to back up the much needed investments in K-12 pertaining to EL students.

Respectfully,

*Marie Neisess*

Marie Neisess, President

Clark County Education Association