

April 29, 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 29, 2021 Assembly Education Hearing SB160: Revises provisions relating to education. (BDR 34-819)**

Hello and thank you Committee Chair Bilbray-Axelrod, and committee members. My name is Dr. Brenda Pearson, and I am here representing the Clark County Education Association. We engage in bipartisan advocacy for advancing public education in Nevada.

CCEA supports Senate Bill 160 and thanks Senators Kieckhefer and Seevers Gansert for bringing this important bill forth. The goal of public education should not merely be high school graduation, but instead a path to post-secondary education. Dual credit serves two purposes: (1) it allows students who are proceeding to higher education the opportunity to explore courses that challenge them while accruing college credits, and (2) it provides students who are interested in post-secondary the ability to explore options for workforce and career. Expanding dual credit education to include out of state institutions broadens the opportunities for students, as Nevada's students should not be restrained by opportunities only available within the state. Additionally, CCEA believes that maintaining cooperative agreements adds a much-needed layer of transparency by informing students and parents of the cost of enrollment upfront.

CCEA understand that a task force has been put together to evaluate and standardize the cost of dual credit opportunities, but students across Nevada cannot wait. We must take strides toward expanding educational opportunities available to our students. As we broaden academic opportunities, we must also keep in mind the important foundational role K-12 plays in the academic experience of all Nevada's students. We must encourage this committee to support the full implementation of SB543, as recommended by the Commission on School Funding. With full implementation and funding, we can reimagine education in Nevada to provide better resources and opportunities to our students to become college and career ready. That includes the opportunity for participation in dual credit programs, that are currently limited and do not promote the continuation of education at NSHE institutions.

CCEA thanks the committee and all sponsors for their effort and looks forward to supporting the full maturation of dual credit programs that will come with this session.

Respectfully,

Brenda Pearson, Ph.D.  
Director of Strategic Policy Initiatives, Clark County Education Associatio