

What does it take to be successful in Nevada politics?



CCEA knows that nothing in Nevada politics happens overnight. To be successful, you have to play the long game. You have to build relationships. You have to be focused on the issues and overcome blind partisanship. You have to be engaged in elections and have the foresight to back candidates who will work with you once elected. You have to be engaged in the legislative process. In summary, you have to use every avenue available to get things done.

Over the past several election and legislative cycles, that’s exactly what CCEA has done in order to advance our agenda, to better public education in Nevada, and advocate for our educators in Clark County. We’ve stayed focused on the issues that matter most. We’ve built relationships with and endorsed lawmakers and elected officials in both parties. We’ve mobilized our members during elections and legislative sessions. We’ve advanced ballot initiatives and directly engaged the community about our priorities as an organization.

The 2023 Nevada Legislative Session has now concluded. We entered the session with an ambitious legislative agenda that was years in the making, and by taking the approach outlined above, we were very successful. Throughout the session, we worked with leaders in both parties to craft legislation designed to meet our priorities—and more importantly, that could receive bipartisan support and ultimately be signed into law by the governor.



CCEA members in Carson City for our 2023 Lobby Day on March 13th, 2023

Below is a recap of the legislation CCEA successfully moved in Carson City during the 2023 Session:

AB175—sponsored by Assembly Education Chair **Assemblywoman Shannon Bilbray-Axelrod**—will reform Clark County’s broken school board of trustees by adding four non-voting appointees who will provide specific expertise to the board, help focus the Clark County School Board on student achievement, and implement more oversight over the budgetary process.

AB285 and **AB330**—sponsored by **Assemblywoman Angie Taylor** and **Governor Lombardo** respectively—rework and improve upon previously passed restorative justice legislation that will ensure every bus, every classroom, and every campus is safe for our students and staff by mandating districts to implement a progressive discipline plan that holds students accountable.

AB399—sponsored by **Speaker of the Assembly Steve Yeager**—will establish a subcommittee to study and assess school district finances to ensure funds are effectively spent to improve student achievement.

AB428—sponsored by Assembly Revenue Chair **Assemblywoman Shea Backus**—will build a teacher pipeline by implementing Nevada Teacher Academies in every CCSD high school to address our chronic shortage of educators; these academies will allow us to cultivate the next generation of homegrown educators who are committed to, and reflect the diversity of, their communities and will have the greatest impact on our educational delivery system.

AB517—sponsored by **Speaker Yeager**—will further increase transparency and accountability from school districts by requiring performance audits and ensuring funds are spent on improving student outcomes.

SB231—sponsored by **Senate Majority Leader Nicole Cannizzaro**—earmarks \$250 million in funds for educator and support staff salary increases—enough for a 10% raise in year 1 of the biennium and an additional 8% inflation adjustment in year 2.

SB282—sponsored by **Senator Rochelle Nguyen**—will ensure 95% of schools’ strategic budgets are spent on student achievement over two years; will empower SOTs with voting authority over school budgets and plans of operation; will ensure selection of staff complies with our collective bargaining agreement; and will give SOTs more authority on the selection of a principal in the case of a vacancy.

SB292—sponsored by **Senator Julie Pazina**—will end the double standard that exists between educators and administrators, by reinstating a 3-year probationary period for the latter; and will allow for a principal to be non-renewed if they create a toxic school climate which results in high staff turnover and reduction in student performance in two consecutive school years.

SB442—sponsored by **Senator Marilyn Dondero-Loop**—removes barriers to licensure by adding Nevada to an interstate compact allowing for reciprocal licensure for educators within participating states.

SB503—the **education budget**—which allocates an additional \$2.4 billion in education funding, increases statewide per pupil funding by nearly \$2,500 per student next year, and fully funds the weights for English Language Learners, at-risk students, and gifted and talented students.

These achievements represent yet another legislative session in which CCEA was incredibly impactful in getting good legislation passed as well as additional funding for education. In the 2019 session, CCEA was instrumental in overhauling how we fund education in Nevada and getting the new Pupil Centered Funding Plan passed. In 2021, CCEA also played a critical role in the passage of the mining tax to fund education, setting the stage for a budget surplus that led to the historic education funding we achieved this session.