

CCEA

Clark County Education Association

the union
of teaching
professionals

Clark County Education Association



Hey, it looks like CCEA was out in force in Carson City during the legislative session!

What are some of the key education bills that passed and what can I expect as an educator as we get ready for the upcoming school year?

Absolutely we did! Not only did over a hundred CCEA members fly up to Carson for our 2023 Lobby Day, but our legislative team maintained a strong presence throughout the session!

Working together with the governor and legislative leaders, added \$2.4 billion to the education budget and passed SB231 to allocate an additional \$250 million for educator raises

In addition to this historic funding, CCEA also had an ambitious policy agenda and passed a number of bills that will be in effect this year!

Yeah, I've seen those funding numbers a lot—that's great!!

Can you also tell me more about the policy bills you mentioned?

Empowering SOTs

What about the reorg and SOTs?

It seems like right now, they just act as a rubber stamp for what principals want

You're absolutely right.

After four years of the school district reorganization, we also sought to strengthen SOTs and address the issue of principals not spending their allocated budgets on improving student outcomes, passing over licensed educators in favor of hiring subs to fill vacancies, and hoarding so-called carryover dollars in perpetuity

So what will this bill change?

SB282 does a number of key things

First, it gives SOTs voting authority over school budgets and plans of operation and more say over the selection of a new principal in the case of a vacancy—now your vote actually matters!

Second, it puts guardrails in place around carryover dollars, requiring principals to spend 95% of these funds within 24 months specifically on improving student achievement

And lastly, it requires the selection of staff to be in compliance with our collective bargaining agreements

It sounds like this will give SOTs a lot more teeth!

How can I get involved in the SOT at my school this year?

We've included all the information you need to know about joining your SOT this upcoming school year right over here >>>



CCEA Members rally outside of "Java with Jara" Tuesday, July 18th, at Sambalatte
Photo Credit: Winston Diep, CCEA Member



CCEA Members rally outside of "Java with Jara" Tuesday, July 18th, at Sambalatte
Photo Credit: Winston Diep, CCEA Member

Join your School Organizational Team!

SOT elections are coming up, and thanks to the changes made by SB282, there's never been a better time to join yours and make a real impact in your school!

CCEA will be sending out more information as the process approaches and is available to answer any more questions you may have about what serving entails. In the meantime, here are the key dates you need to keep in mind:

2023-2024 SOT Nominations:
September 5th - September 19th

Accept/Decline Deadline:
12:00pm | September 20th

2023-2024 SOT Elections:
September 21st - September 25th

Accept/Decline Deadline:
6:00am | September 29th

School Safety

One of my biggest concerns is school safety

Was any legislation passed to address that?

You're right to be concerned! Safety was a top priority for us this session

The rise in school violence that we've seen in recent years has been unprecedented. Our schools are not safe, and our educators and students alike don't feel safe on our CCSD campuses

In fact, the lack of safety in our schools is a top reason why educators are leaving the district, and it's a major driver of chronic student absenteeism. Hundreds of weapons were confiscated in our schools during the 2022-2023 school year. Simply put, the status quo, when it comes to school safety, is a school shooting just waiting to happen

That's why CCEA worked with Assemblywoman Angie Taylor—who we heavily supported in the 2022 election—to move her Assembly Bill 285, and directly with Governor Lombardo to move his Assembly Bill 330, to ensure every bus, every classroom, and every campus in CCSD is safe for educators and students alike

Okay, so what changes do these bills actually make?

Together, these bills—passed in concert by the legislature—rework and improve upon previously passed restorative justice legislation and will ensure that every bus, every classroom, and every campus is safe for our students and staff by mandating districts implement a progressive discipline plan that holds students accountable

Importantly for CCEA members, these bills implement a policy of zero tolerance for violent student behavior, including possession of deadly weapons, and empower educators to remove violent or disruptive students from their classrooms

Anything else I should know about them?

Our goal with this legislation is to create a culture of deterrence on our campuses to prevent violent and disruptive student behavior from occurring and ensuring there are appropriate consequences if it does occur

Key for our members is that your hands are no longer tied when it comes to removing a student from school who is violent with an intent to cause harm

School Governance

What about the school board?

It's no secret that one of the biggest issues we're facing in CCSD is a dysfunctional School Board of Trustees, who—as one lawmaker put it—act more like they're on Desperate Housewives than the professionals focused on student outcomes that we need them to be

Together with the Chair of Assembly Education, Asm. Bilbray-Axelrod, and Republican Asm. Yurek, we passed Assembly Bill 175 to address this dysfunction

What will that do?

AB175 will add four non-voting appointed trustees to the CCSD school board who will provide necessary expertise and keep our elected trustees focused on student achievement.

These appointments will be made by the Clark County Commission and each of the three large municipalities—Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, and Henderson—and CCEA is already engaged with those respective stakeholders to ensure the right people are appointed to these new positions

How can we make sure those appointees are the right fit?

CCEA is already engaged with stakeholders in our local municipalities and at the county commission to ensure these appointed members will actually have the skills and experience that are currently missing from the board



CCEA Members rally outside of "Java with Jara" Tuesday, July 18th, at Sambalatte
Photo Credit: Winston Diep, CCEA Member

School Climate

Was there any legislation to address bad administrators?

Definitely! Increased accountability for admin was also a major priority for us this session

We've seen a huge rise in toxic school climates across CCSD, where unaccountable principals are brought in, and, as a result of their failed leadership, educators and staff flee and student performance plummets

That's why we worked with Sen. Pazina, who we heavily backed in 2022, to pass Senate Bill 292

Okay, so how does this bill address the issue?

Along with reinstating a three year probationary period for principals, SB292 also puts consequences in place for principals who are responsible for creating these toxic school climates

Under this legislation, after one year of more than 50% staff turnover and a drop in academic rating, the Area Superintendent is required to provide mentorship to those principals. After the second year, if these issues continue, those principals would be subject to removal

What else do I need to know?

The intent of this legislation was not to be punitive, but rather to ensure we have an effective and collaborative principal in every school site

The requirements for intervention in this legislation intentionally represent a very high threshold, and the language of this bill was in place between 2015 and 2019 before being quietly repealed in an omnibus education bill at the very end of the session that year

While it was in effect, not a single principal lost their position because this policy worked effectively as a deterrent

Thank you so much!

That's what we're here for!

Now let's get that contract!