

Educate Nevada Now ★ 2021 Legislative Session Priorities

A Path Forward for K-12 Public Education

In the midst of a global pandemic and economic uncertainty, Nevada faces difficult challenges ahead. Now is the time to avoid mistakes of the past and make real investments in our future. Now is the time to plan for success. We ask that lawmakers:

Avoid Balancing Budgets on the Backs of Students.

K-12 has already endured devastating cuts that will have a lasting impact when kids return to school. In order for students just to maintain achievement levels (which sadly is only 50% proficient) we will need additional resources to get them up to speed after the Covid slide.

Supplement, Not Supplant.

Per SB543, all K-12 funds will now go to the State Education Fund. With this added transparency, lawmakers should aim to maintain K-12 funding levels, where additional federal K-12 stimulus funds (estimated at \$470 million for Nevada) aid in supporting students most in need and most affected by the Covid crisis.

Restore Vital Resources.

Lawmakers should aim to restore funding cuts made during the most recent special session. Many eliminated program dollars are critical for a successful transition to the state's new Pupil Centered Funding Plan. Restored funding should prioritize students most at risk of falling behind. Districts' use of federal stimulus dollars to temporarily support these programs may be critical in the short term, but it does not offer a long-term solution.

Develop a Path Forward.

When our economy began to grow out of the Great Recession, Nevada never restored many of the tax cuts that were implemented. This left meager resources and restricted fiscal flexibility. Nevada residents continue to pay the price. We cannot make the same mistakes by simply cutting budgets rather than developing a path to sustainability. Nevada must create a plan to identify diverse and stable revenue sources to provide students the K-12 opportunities they deserve. We must aim to strive rather than merely survive.



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