



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Economic Forum Report May Result in Greater Investment Into NV Public Ed**

*Healthy projection, fueled by increases in taxes and growth could be used to invest in Nevada's students*

(Carson City, NV) - Today's financial projections by the Economic Forum marks an excellent opportunity for increased investment in public education to help educate the future innovators and workforce for Nevada.

"Nevada has no shortage of great ideas on ways in which we can improve public education— from increased engagement of student populations like English language learners, at-risk students, and students with disabilities, to an emphasis on literacy in early grades, to a focus on science, math, and technology to prepare students to be career ready in a new high-tech economy," said Ruben Murillo, Jr., President of the Nevada State Education Association (NSEA).

Along with the good financial news presented at the Economic Forum today, there was good news on the jobs front, with 33,000 more jobs projected by 2019 than previous forecasts. These additional jobs come from a diversity of industries which will drive growth and additional need for resources in public education across the state.

"We know we need to invest in the weighted funding formula and work to reduce class sizes and increase school resources to attract and retain high-quality educators. These great ideas need an investment of new monies to ensure every Nevada student has access to a high-quality public education," said Murillo, Jr.

The Nevada State Education Association has actively been advocating for increased resources for public education. Included in this advocacy has been an effort to restore 2009 room tax monies to their original intended use – to supplement education funding to increase student achievement and to address the teacher shortage by focusing on educator salaries.

Nevada currently ranks 47th in the nation in per-pupil funding for public education. Despite increases proposed in the Governor's recommended budget for public education, average per-pupil spending in Nevada is projected to increase by less than 1.5%, not even keeping up with the increased cost of doing business.

Meanwhile, if fully implemented, the weighted funding formula alone could cost Nevada over a billion dollars. This likely reflects the actual cost of adequately funding public education in Nevada.

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