



## Welcome to the 79th Legislative Session!

(Carson City, NV) - The 79th legislative session starts Monday, February 6 and concludes in June. The Nevada State Education Association will send its Lobby Team to ensure its vision of an exceptional public education for every Nevada student is realized through legislation passed in Carson City.

In this issue of *Powerline*, we will introduce you to the members of the NSEA Lobby Team, and we will provide members with information on how they can support the Lobby Team by directly participating in the legislative process.

### Opportunities in 2017

The results of the 2016 election offer opportunities to strengthen and protect public education and take steps to provide our students and communities with strong public schools. Newspaper headlines following the election gave some insight into pro-public education positions legislators will be taking, for example, repealing the disastrous achievement school program. Also making headlines, the commitment by veteran and newly elected Democratic legislators to ensure the voucher program does not see a dollar diverted from public education.

These opportunities are the result of hard work done by your association and its members leading up to the 2016 election. Education votes mattered, and our work now focuses on reminding legislators that educators played a big part in helping to put them in Carson City. The NSEA Lobby Team will be the trusted education expert as it has been in Nevada for decades.

### Are you connected?

The NSEA Lobby Team is your voice on the ground

during the four-month session. There will be opportunities for educators to participate directly in the process; we will need your help. Are you connected to NSEA? During the session, we will be tweeting updates. You can find NSEA on Twitter with the handle **@nseaonline**. If you do not receive the NSEA e-newsletter, please subscribe by sending an email to **contact.nsea@nsea-nv.org** with the subject line *Member Matters*. This newsletter, *Powerline* will be updated on the NSEA website **www.nsea-nv.org** as a downloadable pdf file. On Facebook, **facebook.com/nseanv** members will get updates on proposed legislation and there will be an easy-to-follow meme alerting members to legislation needing support or opposition and how to take action.

The best way to stay connected to the legislative session is using the NSEA-interactive mobile app. A full description of the app, how to find it, and what it offers is included in this issue. The app is for members only, and all members with emails on file with NSEA will receive a welcome notice and password to access the app. The mobile app is a direct pipeline to Carson City updates which is crucial if we are to both defend and strengthen public education. Nevada's students count on you every day, and they are counting on all of us during this legislative session to stay connected so together we can bring positive, lasting change to public education.



# NSEA Backs Repeal of the Achievement School Program-the Public Should Have Say in Public Education

If you follow the NSEA Facebook page (facebook.com/nseanv) or you follow NSEA on Twitter (@NSEAonline) you may have seen the news that Democratic lawmakers led by Sen. Mo Denis requested a bill draft to repeal the controversial Achievement School District legislation passed by Republicans in 2015. Repealing this ill-conceived plan will help students, empower communities, and protect the collective bargaining rights of NSEA

members who work at these schools.

The *Las Vegas Review Journal* published an editorial fully supporting Sen. Michael Roberson's vow to block any repeal of this partisan plan to pave the way for private school operators to take over public schools. Its editorial is a slap in the face to the hundreds of parents and educators who have flooded community meetings in support of public schools.

Achievement School Districts don't work for struggling students and communities. They only serve to line the pockets of private school operators, many of whom are from out-of-state and others with poor or even no performance records.

NSEA encourages members, especially those who work at schools still on the list, to write the *Las Vegas Review Journal* and voice your support of the plan to repeal the Achievement School District program. Also, take a moment to recognize Senator Mo Denis for his support of public schools.



As seen on TV - Parents take to the streets to express outrage and disgust over plan that takes control of their school away from the community.

## Nevada Legislature Glossary

### What is a BDR?

- The initials BDR stand for "Bill Draft Request." As the name implies, a BDR is a request for the Legal Division of the Legislative Counsel Bureau to draft a bill embodying an idea for a change in the law. When a legislator, a state agency, or other organization requests a bill draft, that request is added to the BDR list in the order it is received so the public has notice of subjects that may be considered in the next legislative session.
- The brief description that appears on the BDR list is the only information that is available to the public until the bill is

actually drafted and introduced. When that occurs, the number of the bill will appear in bold print under the BDR number on the list. For more information about that bill, click on the bill number.

- If you have a question about a BDR, you may wish to contact the sponsor.

### What is NELIS?

NELIS stands for Nevada Electronic Legislative Information System, an additional tool on the legislative website that will assist in viewing content of bills and committee meeting information.

# NSEA-interactive Mobile App Puts Users at the 2017 Legislative Session!

The Nevada State Education Association (NSEA) unveils never before used technology to bring the legislative session to educators. The new NSEA-interactive mobile app is an exciting new way to connect to legislators, engage in conversation about legislative issues, and get updates about the 79th legislative session. The mobile app available for iPhone, iPad, Droid, and Microsoft smart phones and tablets is an exclusive NSEA benefit for members to engage as cyber lobbyists without having to travel to Carson City.

When the app is installed, users will find an incredible amount of resources. Every legislator is listed in the app, alphabetically with email information, how to reach them through social media (if they have an account created), and a link to their information on the Nevada Legislature website. Users who do not know their local representative can use the find-your-legislator tool in the app.

Finding a legislator is just the beginning! We packed this app with bells and whistles to notify educators about important updates as they happen. Educators know all too well the decisions made by legislators in Carson City have a direct impact on their students and schools. The most powerful weapon we have as educators is information. NSEA-interactive will post and push-out information and updates on bills that

are supported and opposed.

The NSEA-interactive app has been used by NSEA members at the annual delegate assembly and one of the most popular features of the app is the activity feed. The activity feed brings app users together in one space where they can share ideas, information, and even photos. The activity feed gives users immediate access to developments in Carson City. The activity feed is an in-app social media outlet where users can find all kinds of updates. Anyone given access to the app can post to the activity feed, and like other social media outlets - selfies are encouraged especially if you are meeting with a legislator!

NSEA-interactive is a members-only app. Members will receive an invite through email where they will be provided a password. This is an app designed for teachers and education support professionals to get information, give input, and participate directly in the legislative session. If you did not receive an email and want access to the app, please email [contact.nsea@nsea-nv.org](mailto:contact.nsea@nsea-nv.org) with your name, work site, and city. NSEA is excited to provide a unique way for all members to experience the legislative process and give all educators a voice in the 79th legislative session.





*“Powerline” is an official publication of the Nevada State Education Association Government Relations Division.*

## The NSEA Lobby Team • The Face and Voice of Nevada Educators at the 2017 Legislative Session

Our elected lawmakers at the State Capitol determine everything from what teachers teach to how schools are funded. That’s why the Nevada State Education Association (NSEA) has lobbyists who are there when you can’t be, monitoring the issues and the bills, and making sure your voice is heard.

The NSEA Lobby Team consists of elected leaders and NSEA staff. The members of the NSEA Lobby Team include:

- NSEA President **Ruben Murillo, Jr.**
- NSEA Executive Director **Brian Lee**
- NSEA Deputy Executive Director of Government Relations **Chris Daly**

- NSEA Government Relations Committee Chairperson **Phil Kaiser**
- Clark County Education Association (CCEA) President **Vikki Courtney**
- Education Support Employees Association President (ESEA) **Virginia Mills**
- NSEA-Retired (NSEA-R) President **Tom Wellman**
- UniServ Council of Nevada (UCN) President **Andy Piper**
- Washoe Education Association (WEA) President **Natha Anderson**
- Washoe Education Support Professionals (WESP) President **Melissa Boesen**



For the latest information on bills currently before the Legislature, visit the Legislative Action Center on the NSEA website, [www.nsea-nv.org](http://www.nsea-nv.org) and the Nevada Legislature website, [www.leg.state.nv.us](http://www.leg.state.nv.us).