

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Public education is the foundation of a strong and healthy society. Our party is committed to supporting and resourcing strong public schools across our state, so every Nevada student has access to a high-quality public education. To accomplish this goal, we believe that school communities, including educators, parents, and students, need to be at the heart of every major decision impacting public education.

In the spirit of the Red for Ed movement sweeping across the country, ~~W~~we support increasing the state's per-pupil funding allocation, to at least the national average, for all grade levels and schools. We support ~~amending and updating the~~ responsible implementation of the new school funding plan formula, the Nevada Plan, that includes new revenues to increase education equity for students who are at-risk, English learners, and in special education programs, while not creating a new winners and losers across the state. This means protecting existing Zoom and Victory Schools and ensuring to address current growth and tax structures, which will guarantee all school districts receive funding to cover increases in enrollment and cost of doing business will receive fair and equitable funding. We support ~~both public education and recognize~~ licensed educators and education support professionals for their expertise in the field and believe all educators should be compensated fairly based on comparable professions and should also keep up with the cost of living. We support expanding after school programs, mental health, and wrap around services. We support the creation of specialized public learning academies/schools with union apprenticeship programs, as well as dual enrollment opportunities for high school students. We oppose over-testing in our classrooms and using test scores and student data to determine teacher evaluation, salary, or retention. We oppose any public funding of private educational institutions, including voucher programs, ~~or~~ Education Saving Accounts, Opportunity Scholarships, or privately-operated charter schools. We support a cap on expansion and also support regulation of public charter schools to ensure that charters do not undermine local public schools and communities. We believe charter schools should be held to the same standards as traditional public schools, including educating similar percentages of English learners, students in poverty, and students with individualized education plans. We support lowering the teacher-to-student class size ratio in all grades and all classes, including special education and electives. We support a system of peer assistance, and high quality and relevant professional development driven by annual staff reviews that support education professionals who need further instructional development or desire to increase their educational attainment. We support funding for school districts to pay teachers and other educators for services that go above and beyond regular ~~teaching duties for those teachers who go the extra mile for their students and for the district~~. We support reviewing the supply budgets for each school, and in some cases, increasing reimbursement to teachers and support staff for all supplies, including curriculum materials, used in the classroom that come out of their own pockets. We support state standards and a curriculum that encourages a well-rounded education and is not dictated by or dependent on high stakes testing. We support pre-K-12 broad curriculum, including, without limits, STEAM-- science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics-- world and American history, civics and government, economics, world and US geography, foreign language, and professional technical education. In order to incorporate

this curriculum, we support reviewing the possibility of a longer school day. We support public funding for remedial summer school. We support reducing interest rates and offering refinancing and/or forgiveness of student loans. We support incentives to reward and retain our existing educators, especially those working with our most struggling students and those teachers who choose to begin their careers in rural areas. We oppose any effort to censor or re-write American history through selective textbook writings, including any effort to impose religious doctrine or erase the true details of slavery or existing indigenous communities prior to colonization and their genocide. We support culturally inclusive curriculum, resources, and experiences. We support medically accurate, inclusive, consent-based, and developmentally appropriate sexual education in publicly funded Nevada schools. We support all efforts to protect pre-K-12 students from sexual misconduct by teachers, staff, and other adults on campus, as well as other students. We support protecting our educators from harassment and abuse perpetrated by any party. We oppose guns in schools except in the hands of current or former professional police or military. We support fully investing in a strong university and college system, in order to offer a variety of traditional and adapting degrees and programs, that allows all qualified high school graduates the opportunity to earn a quality college education without incurring ~~crippling-significant~~ debt.