

NEWS RELEASE
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Educators Disappointed in Governor's Funding Proposal for Private School Vouchers

Legislators Should Redirect Monies to Proven Programs for Public Education

(Carson City, NV)— In his 2017 State of the State address and budget introduction, Governor Brian Sandoval proposed significant funding for private school vouchers, or ESAs. The Nevada State Education Association (NSEA) and the more than 40,000 educators it represents in Nevada strongly oppose any public funding of vouchers.

NSEA believes public funds should be invested in strong public schools. NSEA calls on Nevada lawmakers to redirect revenue the Governor wants earmarked for vouchers to proven programs helping all students.

"The proposed monies for private school vouchers could go a long way to better teach students who are English language learners, low-income or have learning disabilities. Instead of getting bogged down in debates, we should build on the good from the last legislative session to fully fund science, technology, engineering, arts and math programs; universal pre-school; and literacy programs so every student can read by the third grade," said Ruben Murillo, Jr., NSEA President and a special education teacher.

"Supporters of vouchers often talk about 'choice' in education. However, we should first make sure that every parent has the choice to send their kid to a strong public school. The truth is, any voucher program that diverts public money to private education will only short-change students in public schools and leave most with no choice at all," said Natha Anderson, English teacher and Washoe Education Association President.

Nevada's voucher legislation passed in 2015 along a party line vote. It was ruled unconstitutional by the Nevada Supreme Court.

The Nevada State Education Association represents 40,000 teachers and education support professionals across the state and works to ensure an exceptional public education for every Nevada student. Nine out of 10 teachers believe that tax-funded vouchers are a threat to public education.