

## SUPPORT– SB267

Date: March 27, 2019  
To: Senate Committee on Education  
Re: NSEA Supports SB267

The Nevada State Education Association represents teachers and education support professionals across the state. We believe every Nevada student deserves a high-quality public education.

**NSEA supports SB267 to identify social and environmental factors that impact the educational experience of students at every school site and to take these factors in consideration when making decisions on funding, providing student supports, staff evaluations and salaries, and student discipline.**

Over the last several legislative sessions, Nevada has taken significant steps to deliver more equity in public education by providing additional resources and services to students and communities with greater need. Zoom and Victory Schools and the New Nevada Plan are models to address education needs of English learners, students in poverty, and students with individualized education plans. In all our schools, there has been a focus on social and emotional learning to continue to build safe and respectful learning environments.

However, poverty is still prevalent across Nevada, as most Nevada students qualify for free and reduced lunch (statewide in 2017-2018 it was 57.75%, CCSD was significantly higher with 62.44% according to Nevada's Department of Agriculture Child Nutrition Program information). Racism, sexism, and homophobia in our communities intersect with crime, violence, and addiction intersect with lack of economic opportunity, homelessness, poor health and trauma.

Schools in communities that are beset with these social and environmental factors often struggle despite the best efforts of very capable administrators, teachers and education support professionals, and students and their families. SB267 is an important step to continue our path at identifying and addressing these issues.