



TIME TO FUND OUR FUTURE

As the 80th Legislative Session enters the final month, the biggest outstanding question pertains to Nevada's school funding formula. With less than 35 days until the end of session, there has been much speculation but no specific legislation introduced.

Although the bill has not been introduced, the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) has indicated that they will base the new funding formula on the "Successful Schools" model which uses the expenses of a handful of schools that perform better in comparison to their peers or that have shown growth results. The idea is that these schools are successful because they have the "proper resources" and thus their expenses should be the baseline for what it costs for all schools to be successful. Using this model, NDE has stated the average expenses are \$6,197 per student.

NSEA, along with its education partners, have several concerns with the Successful Schools model that was recommended. The dollar figure doesn't appropriately reflect the real cost of Successful Schools and falls several hundred dollars per-pupil short of the actual expenses. The study commissioned by the Legislature last session

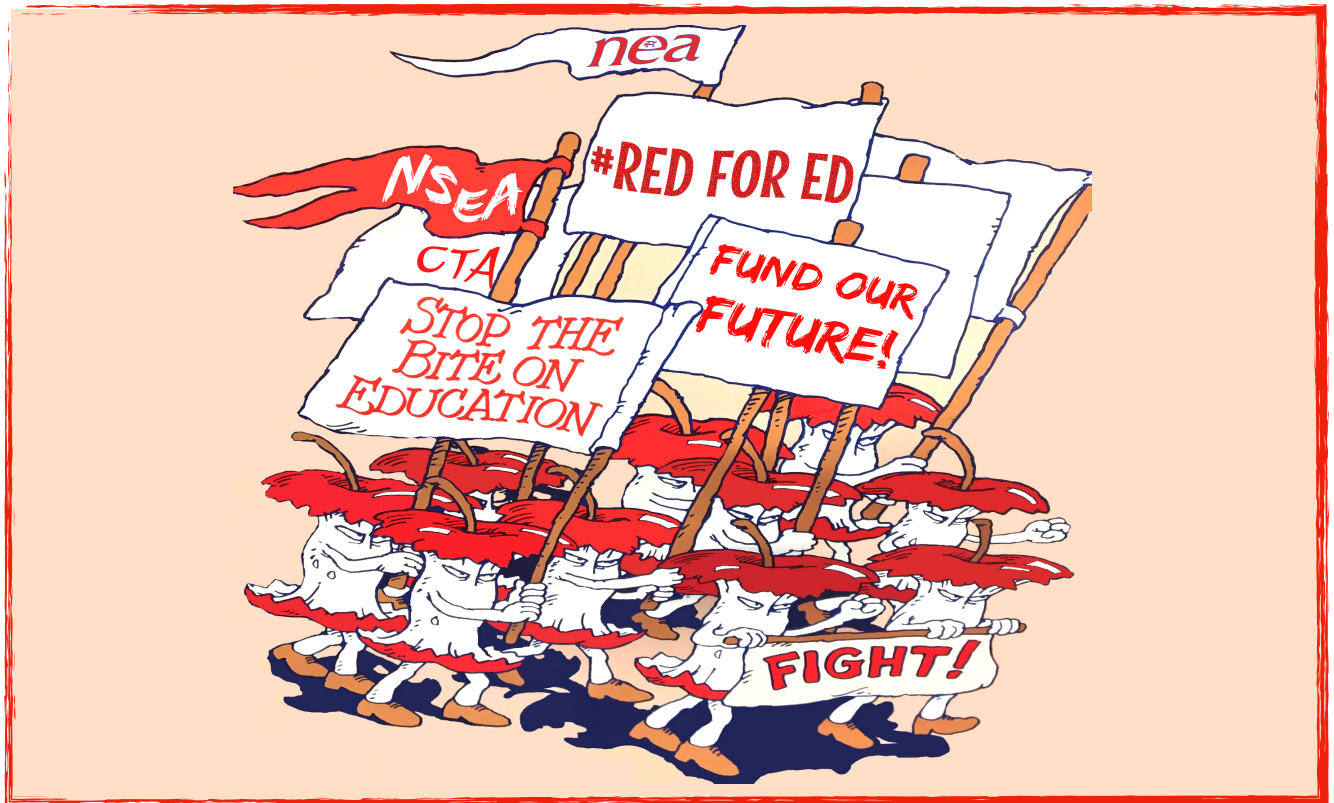
recommends it as a stepping stone towards full adequacy (estimated at \$9,238 per pupil in base funding, but there is no guarantee that the state will actually move beyond this model. Many "successful schools" selected don't accurately reflect the demographics of the majority of Nevada public schools.

In addition to concerns with the model, the following were not considered costs that contributed to the success of these schools: district-level costs (payroll and legal departments for example); magnet school dollars; transportation costs; and dollars from fundraising events and donations. Considering those items, the \$6,197 amount is far too low.

The institution of public education is fundamentally about equality— giving opportunity and leveling the playing field for all students in the state. In addition to sufficient base funding, NSEA has advocated for full implementation of weighted funding for students with disabilities, English learners, and at-risk students. The Nevada Plan, the oldest education funding formula in the nation, continues to underfund our students. NSEA strongly believes every child should receive more than an "adequate" education.

NSEA is concerned about the chronic underfunding of public education in the state. Revisiting the funding formula is an excellent opportunity to take a look at whether there is sufficient funding of public education while also addressing issues of education equity. NSEA looks forward to engaging the bill when it is introduced.

#REDFORED RETURNS TO NEVADA



Why Wear Red? For ED!

Earlier this year, hundreds of Educators across the state dressed in red joined together for rallies in Carson City and Las Vegas! We were joined by many of our community partners, including Fund Our Future, the Nevada PTA, and our students.

On May 22, 2019, the #Red for Ed movement returns to Nevada. NSEA will join with our sisters and brothers at the California Teachers Association (CTA) and the National Education Association (NEA) in coordinated rallies in our state capitals for education funding!

As the 80th Legislative Session enters its final weeks, there are as many questions as answers on education funding. A bill to revise Nevada's school funding formula has yet to be introduced, and there are no new revenues in play to fund our schools. Meanwhile, we have heard from school districts around the state who are projecting budget shortfalls. There are even discussions about possible layoffs of educators. As Educators, we will continue to raise our voices for our students, our schools, and the resources we need as educators. We will continue to point out that Nevada ranked 47th in per-pupil funding and dead last in both class size and overall education quality.

Public education has not been given the respect it deserves, and we need courageous legislators now more than ever. Join us on May 22, 2019 at 5:00pm on the steps of the Nevada Legislature! RSVP by [clicking here](#).

Keep Public Money in Public Schools: Support AB458

AB458, sponsored by Speaker Jason Frierson, passed through the Assembly on a party-line vote with 28 ‘Yes’ votes to 12 “No” Votes. AB458 would eliminate the automatic 10% annual increase to total amount of tax credits allowed for Opportunity Scholarships.

NSEA has been a consistent advocate for adequate public education funding and for keeping public funds in public schools. We are thankful that the Speaker is pursuing this measure. Every dollar allowed in a tax credit going to “Opportunity Scholarships” is a dollar that the legislature could program in our underfunded public schools, where 90% of Nevada kids receive their education.

“Opportunity Scholarships” are just back-door school vouchers. Instead of diverting funding to programs that pay for a limited number of students to go to private schools, Nevada has the responsibility to allocate sufficient funds to public schools, which are accessible to every Nevada student. Over the last 3 years, not including the one-time expansion of the program last session, appropriations for “Opportunity Scholarships” have increased by more than 33%, while over the same period, per-pupil base funding for K-12 education has only increased by a little more than 4%. This is significantly less than the increased cost of doing business, which is a major reason we saw draconian budget cuts in school districts across the state immediately after the last legislative session. Public money should be invested in public schools.

CHARTER SCHOOLS: TIME FOR ACCOUNTABILITY

This session, there has been a huge push to finally hold charter schools in Nevada accountable. NSEA is pursuing three measures which we believe will bring much needed transparency and accountability to the charter school authority.

SB441: This bill regulates online charter schools, and has passed through the Senate. This bill is certainly movement in the right direction to regulate online charter schools; however, we have a stronger position on the regulation of all charter schools, including joining 21 states in capping charter expansion.

AB462: Originally proposed as a moratorium on Charter Schools, this bill now requires a 5 Year Growth Plan for the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA). This bill requires the SPCSA to meet certain guidelines and requirements as well. While we support more transparency and accountability, we believe this bill can go much further. NSEA will be seeking amendments pertaining to caps

and other items, so that we can reign in and resolve the issues we have seen.

SB321: Abolishes the Achievement School District (ASD). Simply put, the ASD has been a failure. AB321 will responsibly move existing ASD charter schools to the State Public Charter School Authority. It was never the right answer for our State’s struggling schools. This top-down approach was diametrically opposed to programs and supports like Zoom and Victory schools designed to invest in students and communities. NSEA believes that it is time to acknowledge the failure of the Achievement School District and move on in a responsible manner by transferring the existing ASD charter schools to the State Public Charter School Authority.

Simply put, charter schools are not the answer to Nevada’s education shortcomings. Data on Nevada’s charter schools shows mixed results at best. In fact, when student achievement is controlled for outside factors, charter schools under-perform traditional public schools by almost every measure. We will continue to pursue the above mentioned items, and strengthen them in every possible way so we can achieve that goal and ensure the focus is on our traditional public schools.

THAT'S WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT!

Here are the Bills that NSEA has been testifying on at the Nevada Legislature!
(the bills are hyperlinked, so click the bill number to read more)

SUPPORT

[AB186](#): Enacting the Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote
[AB289](#): Read By Three
[AB304](#): Classroom Ratios
[AB331](#): Creating the Outdoor Education and Recreation Grant Program
[AB400](#): Protects school funding by restricting certain tax breaks, including the Local School Support Tax.
[AB456](#): Raises the minimum wage to \$12.00/hour in Nevada.
[AB458](#): Eliminates the automatic 10% annual increase to total amount of tax credits allowed for Opportunity Scholarships.
[AB462](#): Charter School Transparency; Five Year Growth Plan
[SB84](#): Establishes a program to award grants to support prekindergarten programs
[SB111](#): Revises the percentage of the budgeted ending fund balance of certain local governments that is excluded from collective bargaining negotiations.
[SB135](#): Grants collective bargaining rights to state employees.
[SB153](#): Reverts collective bargaining language to Pre-2015 language.
[SB207](#): Relating to Apprentices.
[SB231](#): Prevailing Wage Rules.
[SB321](#): Abolishes the Achievement School District.
[SB444](#): Appropriation for certain costs associated with enrollment in prekindergarten education programs.
[SB450](#): Revises rules related to recall elections.
[SB459](#): Authorizes collective bargaining for certain state employees.
[SB467](#): Extends the duration of the Zoom and Victory schools programs.
[SB469](#): Revises provisions relating to the reorganization of certain school districts.
[SB476](#): Establishes programs to promote education in computer science.

OPPOSE

[AB343](#): Requires the board of trustees of each school district & the governing body of each charter school to provide certain training regarding the mental health of pupils.
[SB26](#): Excludes certain money from the ending fund balance in CCSD (Dead; did not meet deadline)
[SB475](#): Sets SLO/SLG's of a Teacher's Evaluation at 20%; NSEA seeks 0%

NEUTRAL/WATCH

[SB101](#): Relating to the adoption of the equity allocation model used to calculate a basic support guarantee
[SB324](#): Teacher Reimbursements (See AB237 which NSEA supports)
[SB441](#): Regulation of online charter schools.
[SB451](#): Authorizes a charter contract to be renewed for a variable length of time.