

## **Nevada State Education Association**

### **Special Education Committee Report**

#### **To 2026 Delegate Assembly**

The NSEA Special Education Committee has met over the past several months to discuss ongoing challenges facing special education classrooms across Nevada. These issues are critical, and our committee is committed to addressing them during upcoming legislative sessions.

One of the most urgent concerns is staff safety. With increasing caseloads in special education, educators are experiencing significant burnout, feeling underpaid, and, in many cases, unsafe in their classrooms. These conditions are not sustainable and are contributing to difficulties in retaining qualified staff.

Many educators have expressed that access to mentorship—either as a mentor or mentee—would greatly support their professional growth and help them feel more effective and successful in their roles.

Additionally, our schools are severely understaffed, particularly in the area of education support professionals (ESPs). We advocate for increasing ESP hours to include dedicated, mandatory prep time to allow for meaningful collaboration with teachers. We also believe that every school site with a special education program should have a designated SPED floater to provide additional support where needed.

This committee is committed to raising awareness of these critical issues. With the support of NSEA, we are hopeful that these concerns—and others—will be heard by our state legislature, parents, and communities across Nevada.

NSEA Special education committee member: Misty Olmos, Steven Horner, Susie Ward, Dolly Rowan and Corinne Paiva-Heath and NSEA Staff Liaison Chris Daly