

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 31, 2019

K12 EDUCATION BUDGET A SIGNIFICANT STEP

(Carson City, NV) - Today the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means received a first-look of the K-12 Education Budget for the 2019-2021 Biennium. The budget bill is scheduled to be introduced in the Senate Finance Committee later this evening.

“As the voice of Nevada Educators for over 100 years, NSEA has been busy working with legislators every day to appropriate more dollars for public education,” said Chris Daly, Deputy Director of Government Relations for the Nevada State Education Association. “These numbers represent significant movement over current year expenditures. There is a lot more work to do, and we’re far from full adequacy, but this is a big step in the right direction.”

In February and May of 2019, hundreds of educators from across Nevada rallied under the banner of Red for Ed to draw attention to chronic underfunding of public education. Nevada continues to rank near the bottom of states in most metrics. In the 2018 Quality Counts report from Education Week, Nevada ranked 47th in per-pupil funding and dead last in both class size and overall education quality.

With the presentation of today’s K12 Education Budget, significant steps are being taken by Nevada Legislators to address these issues. The K-12 Education Budget would deliver a total of \$10,277 per pupil next year with base funding of \$6,218. Compared to current year projected spending, base funding increases by \$166, or 4.2%, and total funding increases by nearly \$900 per-pupil or 9.5%. Some other notable items: the proposed DSA budget also includes \$327.2 million for class size reduction over the next two years and \$45.5 million in school safety appropriations. Both items are priorities for educators across the state.

Nevada is still a long way from full adequacy in education funding, but without raising taxes, the proposed K12 Budget contains more movement than many thought possible this Legislative Session. We would like to thank Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton, Speaker Jason Frierson, Senator Joyce Woodhouse, and Majority Leader Nicole Cannizzaro for their work to deliver for our students, schools, educators, and communities.

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The Nevada State Education Association represents teachers, education support professionals, and other licensed professionals across the state.