

2024 GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

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2022 ELECTIONS

NSEA aggressively engaged the [2022 elections](#), endorsing a slate of public education champions, including several internal NSEA candidates for office. While we lost two difficult primary races, we won a third in Reno, ultimately helping elect NSEA member leader Selena La Rue Hatch to the Assembly. With a difficult political climate in November, including strong headwinds on inflation and the approval rating of the President, NSEA had very strong results. 38 of our endorsed candidates or measures won (including 4 NSEA members), while 6 lost. This included a split of the top two races, for US Senate and Governor, winning 3 of 4 Congressional races, all of our state legislative races, and 5 of 7 local races.

THE TIME FOR 20 LEGISLATIVE SESSION (2023)

With a steady drumbeat in 2022, NSEA laid the foundation for the 82nd Legislative Session. NSEA members were a regular presence at the legislature during the session, bringing personal stories of the struggles faced by Nevada schools and educators directly in front of decision-makers. In May, NSEA mobilized close to 1000 educators and public education allies, umbrellas in hand, to say It's a Rainy Day for Nevada schools. We called on legislators to fund Time for 20 with a 20% raise, \$20/hour starting pay, and 20 students per classroom.

Members of NSEA's ground team tracked 193 bills, with 28 of 66 bills we supported passing out of the legislature and 21 of the 27 bills we opposed failing. NSEA ground team and member leaders were a regular presence during the session testifying in committee. We submitted exhibits on 47 bills and budgets, updated on NSEA's [bill tracker](#), and made [in person public comment](#) on many other items.

While the legislature did not pass a bill to meet all the demands of Time for 20, they did adopt a budget with a 21.4% increase in base funding for neighborhood public schools for the biennium. They also passed SB231, appropriating \$250M in one-time, matching funds for educator raises. The net result of this action is that most Nevada school districts will have the resources available, so we can bargain for at least 20% raises in the upcoming biennium.

NSEA also took on the issue of educator safety and voice through our Respect Educators Act. This resulted in the passage of AB285, which struck an important balance between ensuring educator safety through progressive student discipline, while also maintaining the overall framework of restorative justice. NSEA also forced amendments to AB400, to strengthen Nevada's overall student discipline system, while maintaining educator authority to temporarily remove a disruptive student from a classroom or other school premises.

NSEA also enjoyed a major win in beating back a proposal by Governor Lombardo to make the largest ever increase in private school vouchers in Nevada. As introduced, AB400 would have stepped up

“Opportunity Scholarships” to hundreds of millions of dollars per year and created the Office of School Choice. Even though a competitor union sponsored this bill, we beat it back, forcing the removal of all language related to private school vouchers from the bill.

NSEA scored several other important victories for educators and students during the session. Highlights include:

- \$10M appropriation for school supply reimbursements for teachers and instructional support personnel.
- Creation of the Advisory Committee on the Safety and Well-Being of Public School Staff.
- Expansion of the Teacher Recruitment and Retention Taskforce to include education support professionals.
- Further streamlining student assessments by eliminating the requirement for end of course exams.
- Including 6-year-olds in school attendance requirements.
- Required audits of school districts by the State’s legislative auditor.
- A ruling forcing CCSD to comply with contract language during the employee surplus process.
- Agreement with PERS on parity for education support professionals for accrual of service credit.

[Click here](#) for our full legislative report.

TIME FOR 20 AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Nearly 50 NSEA members applied to become Ambassadors, and we selected 21 for the program. We held weekly Ambassador meetings to engage in training, messaging, and to coordinate activities. Ambassadors formed the base for our in-person lobbying efforts and for public comment on related items. Most were able to get one-on-one meetings with their respective legislators. Ambassadors were able to write and place several op-eds in papers across the state. Ambassadors played central roles in organizing our May rallies in Carson City and Las Vegas, leading the organizing for the Vegas rally, and heavily engaging in outreach and recruiting for the Carson rally. And with about a dozen of our Ambassadors very active on Twitter, with message discipline, we were able to occupy legislator Twitter feeds. With the assist from our Ambassadors, Time for 20 was probably the steadiest, most vocal, and most visible campaign of the legislature, up until the A’s stadium item hit late in the session.

SCHOOLS OVER STADIUMS

Due to the trajectory of the legislative session, the education budget and NSEA’s Time for 20 work was done with many days left in the session. That’s also right when the issue of the A’s ballpark hit the legislature. NSEA was able to quickly pivot from our Time for 20 campaign to one questioning the state’s priorities related to the giveaway of public funds for the stadium. SB509 during the regular session, and then SB1 in the second special session, gave \$380M in public funds to California billionaire John Fisher to build a stadium in Las Vegas for his Oakland A’s. We pointed out Nevada was the only state in the country to receive 3 F’s in education funding in the 2022 “Making the Grade” report released by the Education Law Center. *Nevada wants the A’s, but that’s why we get all the F’s.*

State	Poverty Rate School-Aged Children	Funding Level	Funding Distribution	Funding Effort
Montana	13%	C	C	C
Nebraska	9%	C	A	C
Nevada	15%	F	F	F
New Hampshire	7%	A	F	C
New Jersey	12%	A	D	A
New Mexico	20%	C	B	B

**NEVADA WANTS THE A’S
THAT’S WHY WE GET ALL THE F’S**

#SCHOOLSBEFORESTADIUMS



While the legislature passed SB1 in the special session, NSEA led a fierce opposition that included progressive allies in Nevada, like PLAN and Battleborn Progress, along with A's fans from the Oakland area. Our Time for 20 messaging and stadium messaging was so effective, the last days of the special became as much about what legislators did or didn't do on public education as it did the merits of moving hundreds of millions of dollars of public money to help finance a stadium. With the regional and national interest on this issue, NSEA was able to land national press on the issue of Nevada underfunding education. With this momentum, NSEA launched [Schools Over Stadiums](#), a political action committee committed to pursuing every possible path to stop the use of public funds to subsidize a billionaire's stadium. This includes litigation as well as giving Nevadans the opportunity to vote to stop this misguided project. Schools Over Stadiums has been fundraising to support these efforts. With nearly a year of organizing and regular headlines in the local and national press, we have started to turn the tide against the A's move to Las Vegas. With the Constitutional challenge and our referendum petition language pending at the Nevada Supreme Court, Schools Over Stadiums has already succeeded in calling the question of the state's priorities and making the case that Nevada should prioritize the funding of our schools.

NSEA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES SURVEY

The NSEA GR Committee developed and deployed our biennial legislative priorities member survey. This survey also included an optional question bank on member economic concerns. We received nearly 1000 survey responses. An overview of the member survey will be provided at Delegate Assembly.

2024 CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENTS

NSEA is currently in the process of making endorsements in the 2024 election. You can view a list of candidates already endorsed on [our 2024 Educator Votes](#) page.

STATE ADVOCACY

NSEA continues our regular presence at state meetings like the Interim Education Committee, Board of Education, and the Commission on School Funding. See NSEA's [resource library](#) to view written public comment.

TIP BYLAWS AND POLICIES AMENDMENTS

In 2023, the NSEA GR Committee and Board of Directors updated our TIP Bylaws and Policies. These changes provided for a streamlined and clearer endorsement process, included student and retiree representation, and allowed for alternative candidate questionnaires, depending on political dynamics of individual districts.