



February 10, 2017

Welcome to the CCSD Session Spotlight, a weekly newsletter designed to inform you about education issues throughout the 2017 Nevada Legislature. We will cover the Clark County School District's priorities during the session, along with any bills that may have an impact on CCSD. If you have followed our legislative updates in the past, you know that we provide insight on each week's activities, including highlights from bill hearings, the next week's schedule, how to get involved and learn more, and a list of bills that we monitor.

Highlights from Week One

The 2017 Nevada Legislature kicked off with the usual ceremonies. On the first day, legislators were sworn in to office by Chief Justice Michael Cherry followed by recognition of family and friends that accompanied for the opening of session. Leaders on both sides gave speeches outlining their priorities for the next 120 days. Senate Majority Leader Aaron Ford presented the Nevada Blueprint discussing their priorities which include support for improving public education, assisting small businesses in expanding, passing an equal-pay bill, giving workers earned sick leave on their jobs, improving college affordability, expanding vocational and job training opportunities, and making child care more affordable.

On the Assembly side, Speaker Jason Frierson addressed priorities for education including addressing students falling behind, classroom accountability, teacher recruitment, retention, and pay, and tools for student learning. Other priorities mentioned included economic security for families, jobs, equal pay, discrimination in the workplace, criminal justice system reform, and restoring faith in government.

Tuesday, February 7

The Senate Committee on Finance heard the budget for the Public Employee's Retirement System (PERS). The hearing centered on the costs of state employee benefits and the expected growth of PERS investments.

Wednesday, February 8

The Joint Committee on Assembly Ways and Means and Senate Finance heard from the Department of Agriculture on their budget, including the National School

Lunch Program. During the hearing the Nevada Department of Agriculture discussed its implementation of the school breakfast and lunch program and highlighted the current success of the program in the Clark County School District.

In Assembly Commerce and Labor, Assembly Bill 18, which ratifies the enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact adopted by the National Council of State Board of Nursing to streamline the licensing process when nurses move from one state to another, was heard. This bill received both support and opposition and is expected to be to be highly debated in the coming weeks.

Thursday February 9,

Senate Finance reviewed the budget of the Nevada Treasurer's Office, which includes Education Savings Account. During the hearing, State Treasurer David Schwartz fielded questions on how his office implemented the program before being halted by the Nevada court system.

On Thursday, February 9, 2017, the Senate Committee on Judiciary heard Senate Bill 40. This bill strives to revise provisions relating to the registration of child custody determinations and support orders from outside of Nevada. Specifically, it requires a person seeking registration, instead of the court, to notify any parent or person who has been awarded custody or visitation in the child custody determination.

For a full list of the bills we are tracking, [click here](#).

Coming Up:

To keep current about hearings that are scheduled (and sometimes rescheduled) during the session, it's important to utilize the "Calendar of Meetings" link on the [Nevada Legislature](#) Web site. There you will find the most updated list of committee meeting dates and times as well as the bills listed for each agenda.

[Scheduled Meetings for the Week of February 13, 2017](#)

Want to Learn More?

One of the most challenging aspects of monitoring the Nevada Legislature is keeping abreast of their day-to-day activities and which bills and budgets are being heard in which committees. Luckily, there are a few tools in place that can help you follow the legislature on a daily basis.

The Legislative Council Bureau runs the [Nevada Electronic Legislative Information Service](#), affectionately named NELIS, which is a one-stop shop for all things related to the Nevada Legislature.

Two very useful features of NELIS are its calendar and bill tracking functions. The calendar is updated constantly and will help inform you on when and where bills

are scheduled to be heard. The calendar can also provide you with a link to watch the hearing live once the committee meeting has begun.

NELIS' bill tracking function is called the Personalized Legislative Tracker, known as PLT. You can [sign up](#) for it for free. Once you have an account you can track any bill or budget that is introduced during the 2017 Legislative Session. If you don't know the exact bill number of a particular topic, PLT can narrow down the list of bills that matter to you. Once you have identified the bills and topics that interest you, PLT will automatically send you updates and information on actions taken by the Nevada Legislature.

For novices and legislative pros alike, NELIS and PLT are the go-to tools for navigating the Nevada Legislature.

If you know someone interested in receiving the CCSD Session Spotlight, they can sign up for our newsletter by clicking on the banner on ccsd.net or by emailing their name and email address directly to SessionSpotlight@ccsd.net.

We look forward to sharing with you the issues related to education throughout the 120-day session of the 2017 Nevada Legislature.

CCSD Government Relations
