

March 1, 2019

Month one of the 80th Legislative Session is complete and as March rolls in, bills of importance to CCSD educators and students are getting lengthy hearings with plenty of discussion.

SB185 - Background Checks for Volunteers

On Monday, the Senate Committee on Education had a hearing on **SB185**, which relaxes restrictions on volunteer background checks. CCSD testified in support of this bill because of two key changes that Senator Heidi Seevers Gansert included to previous legislation:

1. The bill removes the provision that “regular” volunteers must be fingerprinted and instead says only volunteers who are “unsupervised” with students must be fingerprinted. Also, there was a discussion at the hearing about defining “unsupervised.” Some groups, like the Nevada PTA, would like a definition. CCSD supports creating a definition either in the bill or in subsequent state regulation.
2. CCSD has argued that people who receive background checks as part of their profession should not have to be fingerprinted again, such as law enforcement and people who work in social services. This bill provides this exemption.

AB78 - Charter Schools/Achievement School District

On Thursday, the Assembly Committee on Education heard from the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) and the Achievement School District (ASD) on a heavily revised **AB78** regarding charter school governance.

CCSD proposed a conceptual amendment that removes the ASD from the Nevada Revised Statutes. As it currently stands, ASD has not been able to find charter operators willing to come in at our per-pupil funding level. The CCSD amendment would shift all current ASD charter schools under the State Charter School Authority. CCSD’s legislative platform opposes converting any of our schools to be run by charter operators. This model has not been a successful in other states.

SB109 - Cameras in Special Education Classrooms

SB109, which would require cameras to be installed in special education classrooms serving non-verbal students, was presented by Senator Scott Hammond. The Nevada Association of School Superintendents (NASS) testified in opposition to the bill on behalf of all schools districts in the state as it is an unfunded mandate. NASS stated that the funds would be better used if directed toward professional development for teachers and staff working in these classrooms.

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

[Current Scheduled Meetings for the Week of March 4, 2019.](#)

Monday - Superintendent Jara Comes North - School Safety Omnibus Bill

Monday, March 4th, will be a busy day for CCSD. Superintendent Dr. Jesus F. Jara will present alongside Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) Chancellor Thom Reilly to the Senate Committee on Education. They will talk about the collaboration between CCSD and NSHE on Pre-K through 20 initiatives such as addressing remediation, increasing dual credit courses, and increasing workforce and career preparation.

In the evening, Dr. Jara will also testify at a special joint hearing of the Senate and Assembly committees on education. The hearing will focus on the recommendations of the Statewide Safety Task Force with a presentation first by the Task Force, followed by presentations on **SB57** and **SB89**. CCSD has been supportive of many of these safety efforts such as providing more police, counselors, and social workers on campuses, assessing the vulnerabilities of our school buildings, and standardizing emergency response plans while making sure that CCSD gets its fair share of these funds.

The "[Calendar of Meetings](#)" on the Nevada Legislature Web site is always up to date.

Nevada Reading Week

Nevada Reading Week is a yearly favorite in which our community comes together to read to our students and talk about the importance of reading. This year, we want to thank [Speaker Jason Frierson](#), Education Committee Chairs [Senator Mo Denis](#) and [Assemblyman Tyrone Thompson](#), and the 15 other legislators and staff members of both parties who participated from Carson City via Skype or Google Hangout! Also a big thank you goes to our CCSD Communications team for setting all of them up with the schools!

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