



# SESSION SPOTLIGHT

## March 15, 2019

With a March 18 deadline looming to introduce new bills, the Legislature reached a hurried state, as previously introduced bills were moved through the process to prepare for the coming onrush of new bills.

### **Nevada Department of Education (NDE) Budget Hearings**

On Tuesday, in a joint meeting with the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means and the subcommittee on K-12 Higher Education from the the Senate Committee on Finance, the NDE presented their budget. It included the Education Licensure Department and the Achievement School District (ASD). In Education Licensure, it was revealed that NDE retains a 47 percent ending fund balance at the end of each fiscal year, as nearly half of their budgeted funds go unused. CCSD testified against a proposal to increase teacher licensing because of the large ending fund balance in Education Licensure. CCSD also testified in opposition to any funding for the ASD. Our [supplemental platform](#) states that we oppose conversions of our neighborhood schools to charter schools.

### **Transportation for English Language Learner (ELL) Students**

Also on Tuesday, in the Assembly Committee on Education, Assemblywoman Selena Torres presented **AB219**, which would require school districts to provide transportation for ELL students to an alternative school if they did not receive “adequate” English instruction at their zoned school. CCSD testified against the bill because it as an unfunded mandate that takes dollars away from the classroom for transportation. This is also an argument for a weighted funding formula that would provide additional resources to all students with additional needs, such as English Language Learners. CCSD will continue to work with the sponsor as we try to find the best solutions to serve the needs of all of our ELL students.

### **Tech Jobs in Gaming**

On Wednesday, in a meeting of the Assembly Committee on Judiciary, Assemblyman Steve Yeager presented **AB221**, which lowers the minimum age for tech jobs in gaming from 21 to 18 years old. CCSD Superintendent Dr. Jesus F. Jara [provided a letter](#) in support because the bill would support additional career and technical education pathways for students. **AB221** would also open up the possibilities of more partnerships for our students to participate in apprenticeships or internships.

## **School Libraries**

Also on Wednesday, the Senate Education Committee heard **SB191** and **SB249**, which both require public schools to establish and maintain a school library in a designated area as well as employ a school librarian. Both bills are similar in language and in intent with the exception that **SB191** allows paraprofessionals to staff libraries. CCSD testified in support of both bills. Our Trustees have expressed support for having certified librarians in all schools to help drive student achievement.

## **Advisory Commission on Mentoring**

On Thursday, the Senate Education Committee heard **AB235**, which revises the Nevada Advisory Commission on Mentoring by adding two members as appointed by the Legislature, requiring that other members are not current legislators, and shortening terms to two years among other changes. CCSD testified in support of the Nevada Advisory Commission on Mentoring as it aligns with our Focus: 2024 Strategic Plan in the recruitment of community mentors for our students.

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

## **Upcoming Deadlines**

As mentioned above, if legislators do not introduce their bills by the end of the day on March 18th, then their bills are dead and cannot be brought back to the floor. However, that does not mean all bills must be introduced by Monday. Bills that are being sponsored by committees have until Monday, March 25th to be introduced. After that, bills (unless exempt) will have until April 12th before they must pass the committee it is referred to in the first house or they will be dead.

Hearings and activities will pick up for the next few weeks as we get a more complete picture of what to expect this session for education.

[Current Scheduled Meetings for the Week of March 18, 2019.](#)

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

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