

A Leg Up

The Weekly Legislative Update for the Clark County School District

February 16, 2013

It was another busy week in Carson City; energy and a sense of urgency permeate the building. Legislators are working at a rapid pace, continuing hearings on major issues such as the C-Tax, and receiving presentations from various entities on a wide variety of topics to ensure committee members are fully informed.

We're currently tracking 68 bills (from the 250 or so that have been introduced so far), most of which have potential impact on district operations rather than curriculum. Many of the education bills that have been discussed prior to the session are still in development and will be introduced over the next couple of weeks. I've attached the list of the bills we're monitoring at this point. This list will always be in flux as new bills are added and as some are deleted if they are determined to have no impact on the district.

On Monday, February 11, Senate Education heard presentations on the status of education in Nevada by the Nevada Department of Education and from representatives of Clark, Washoe, Douglas and Carson City school districts. Deputy Superintendent Pat Skorkowsky's presentation about CCSD was informative and led to multiple questions about kindergarten, teacher qualifications, funding, and testing. If you did your homework last week, you already know you can find his presentation on NELIS, but I've attached it for your convenience. I was impressed by two slides in particular. Page 11 shows the steady growth of class sizes in Clark County to reach the record-high class sizes we now have in place. Page 25 that shows Nevada kindergarten students measure 30 points lower in reading and 25 points lower in math than their counterparts across the country, a grim result of the lack of early childhood education programs in our state and a reminder of how important it is for us to have full-day kindergarten to get our young learners ready for first grade.

In Assembly Education on Wednesday, February 13, the committee heard Digital Learning presentations by the Nevada Department of Education the, Commission on Educational Technology (represented by CCSD's Jhone Ebert), Carson City, Clark, and Washoe. This presentation was similar to the presentation before Senate Education last week, but this week Loretta Asay and Kim Loomis shared CCSD's "One to One" pilot project and Online and our Blended Teacher Certification Program

Also attached to this week's report is the updated calendar of hearings that have been scheduled to date. Please note that the presentations on iNVEST and school performance frameworks have been moved to Wednesday, March 13.

If you'd like to be removed from the list, please let me know. Additionally, if you know of other individuals who would like to be added, just shoot me their name and email address and I'll add them.

Thanks for your interest in the Nevada State Legislature!