

A Leg Up

The Weekly Legislative Update for the Clark County School District

April 20, 2013

The 77th Nevada Legislature focused on floor votes and budget closings this week. The Subcommittee on K-12 Education/Higher Education/CIP (comprised of members from both the Senate Finance and Assembly Ways and Means) met on Wednesday and Friday to close certain budgets of the Nevada Department of Education. Most of the budgets that were closed this week were federally funded programs and include the following accounts within the Nevada Department of Education:

- **Education Jobs Fund** - This closes out a one-time, federal appropriation which provided essential resources to assist local school districts in saving or creating education jobs and helping to ensure that America's students are prepared to succeed in college and careers.
- **Safe and Drug Free Schools Program** – This account was formerly funded by Title IV of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Title IV ended in 2012. The Committee's action closes out the account which supported programs of drug abuse education.
- **School Health Education Program** - This closes out the federally funded program which ended in March 2012 and was designed to assist school districts to establish, strengthen, or expand HIV/AIDS and STD prevention education.
- **Educational Trust Fund** - This account is funded with transfers from the Abandoned Property Trust Fund of abandoned, expired gift certificates and can only be expended as authorized by the Legislature for educational purposes.
- **Education State Fund** - This account funds the activities of the State Board of Education; the administrative duties of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction; the management of the state Department of Education and statewide school issues; and the technical expertise of professional persons in various education subjects. Funding is also included for state board member travel, academic probation panels, and the Commission on Educational Technology.
- **Career and Technical Education** - The Department of Education administers occupational education programs that meet the requirements of the Nevada State Plan for Career and Technical Education (CTE). The plan is based on the needs of students within the state and serves as the application for the federal Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act funds. T
- **Continuing Education** - This Continuing Education account is funded through the federal Adult Education and Family Literacy Act. The purpose of the act is to provide adult basic education and English as a Second Language (ABE/ESL) services in order to assist adults to become literate and obtain the knowledge and skills necessary for employment and self sufficiency; to assist adults in the completion of secondary school education; and to assist adults who are parents to obtain the educational skills necessary to become full partners in the education of their children.
- **Other Unrestricted Accounts** - This account is comprised of the following: Private School Licensing Fees; National Cooperative Statistics Task-Order funding; and National Assessment of Education Proficiency (NAEP) Task Order funding. The programs in this budget are funded by a variety of sources, including federal funds, fee revenue, and local grants.
- **State Public Charter School Authority** - The Authority was created by SB 212 from the 2011 Legislative Session to authorize the formation of charter schools and provide technical assistance and oversight.

- **ESEA, Title I** - These funds provide federal assistance to improve instructional programs for educationally disadvantaged students. The programs are directed towards schools with a high concentration of low income families, a large number of children of migratory agricultural workers, or educationally disadvantaged students such as those with limited English proficiency. Services are also provided to delinquent or neglected children housed both in juvenile facilities and adult correctional institutions. In addition, all of the student performance requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act, which apply to all public schools in the state, are part of Title I.
- **ESEA, Titles II, V, and VI** - This budget account provides federal funds to assist state and local educational agencies in improving elementary and secondary education in areas such as programs to assist in reducing the drop-out rate; increasing student achievement including emphasis in reading, mathematics; and science; and the acquisition of instructional materials, training, and professional development. This account includes funding available to the department to administer the programs and the funding to be provided to school districts to implement the objectives of the programs.
- **IDEA** - The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) provides funding to states through the US Department of Education. Several federal grants are combined in this budget account, which is designed to improve students with disabilities' performance on statewide assessments including alternate assessments; transition from early intervention programs; behavioral success; graduation and drop-out rates; post-secondary outcomes; and recruitment and retention of highly qualified special education personnel. Also included in this budget is the NRS 395 Program, which provides funding for the education of special students whose individualized educational programs cannot be met in their home school districts.

NEXT WEEK

Neither Assembly Education nor Senate Education will meet on Monday, but both committees will be back into full swing on Wednesday. Here are hearings posted so far; be sure to check the legislative website for updates since additional bills may be added to agendas as they are moved out of one house to the other.

HERE'S A TIDBIT:

A **budget closing** occurs when the committee meets to consider the Governor's recommended budget for specific accounts. The committee can vote to accept the recommendation as is or the committee can enhance or cut the budget. Once the committee votes and determines it closed, the budget is decided for the next biennium. For state funding, a bill including the final budget amounts goes to the full body of the Legislature for a vote.