

# BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES 2021 STATE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

VISION: All students progress in school and graduate prepared to succeed and contribute in a diverse global society.

# CCSD Bill Draft Requests:

## **Internet Connectivity**

• Proposed legislation would create the Nevada K-16 Connectivity and Innovation Advisory Commission to connect all Nevada's K-12 schools, technical colleges, institutions of higher education, public libraries, and community and recreational centers throughout the state.

## **Prioritizing Staff Efficiency**

- Proposed legislation would seek to remove unfunded mandates, duplicative reports, and other requirements that take away from the classroom.
- Examples include: State mandated tests, body mass index testing, remove requirement for amended final budget and adjust timeline.

# Other Priorities Include:

### School Funding

- Preserve the weighted funding formula and ensure proper weights are described by the Commission on School Funding, including adequacy targets (English Language Learners, Special Education, Gifted and Talented Education)
- Provide schools certainty in their budget preparation process by ensuring dollars are directly appropriated to the District by the end of the legislative session, while also allowing the District to leverage its size to purchase goods and services, to improve student learning conditions
- Support the restoration of school trust lands so the funds generated from lands can benefit public education as originally intended by Congress
- Address the inequities presented by Assembly Bill 469 (2017) to ensure all students have an equal opportunity and access to rigorous instruction
- Oppose all unfunded mandates

# School Safety and Mental Health

- Support all measures to ensure districts have additional funding to improve school safety
- Ensure restorative practice models address anti-social student behavior, protect and support victims, and reduce loss of instructional time
- Work closely with the State to find creative ways to increase, recruit, and retain more school counselors, school social workers, school psychologists, student success advocates, and mental health specialists
- Support the allocation of funding to increase professional learning to plan and implement interventions for students experiencing trauma and other mental health challenges, as well as programs that emphasize suicide prevention and training for students and employees

#### Improved Learning Environments

- Preserve current funding and authorize an additional 25-year period for general obligation bonds for capital improvements in order to provide more dollars to fund new schools, as well as provide a revenue stream for preventative and deferred maintenance of buildings
- Support efforts for the State to provide additional dollars to reduce class sizes
- Work to ensure that all students have access to a properly vetted, high quality curriculum
- Collaborate with the State to invest in digital learning and workforce development, while ensuring for alignment in attendance and seat-time requirements for blended learning
- Support efforts to expand the access of broadband connectivity for our underserved communities to address inequities
- Provide additional dollars and support for the professional learning of all teachers, support professionals, and administrators to assist them in providing engaging, innovative, standards-based instruction to all students, in every classroom, whether traditional, online, or through a blended learning model
- Support efforts to expand dual credit opportunities (e.g., Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and Career and Technical Education) for all current high school students to earn college credits
- Teacher Pipeline and Retention Efforts
  - Identify opportunities to address and diversify the teacher pipeline through secondary teacher preparation programs, "grow your own" teacher options, Alternative Routes to Licensure, and national recruitment strategies especially for high need areas
  - Support efforts to ensure every child is taught by a licensed teaching professional, while also providing proper supports for first-year teachers
  - Continue providing incentives for teachers at Title I schools while also modifying timelines for disbursements to align with the District's hiring season
  - Support the recommendations of the Superintendent's Teacher Recruitment and Retention Advisory Committee to address classroom teacher recruitment and retention efforts
  - Review state licensing process and streamline the state licensure reciprocity process for all educators transferring from another state and moving to Nevada, as well as the potential of blended learning models allowing educators to teach from outside of Nevada
- Address remediation so students are both college and career ready
- Support a continued investment by the State to grow the number of Pre-Kindergarten classes so all children have access regardless of their social status or geographic location
- Reduce reporting requirements for educators so they can focus on student achievement
- Protect employee confidentiality through the implementation of whistleblower protections
- Support Vegas PBS' efforts to increase funding educational services and digital technology enhancements and upgrades