

*Nevada Association of School Superintendents stands ready to partner with all decision makers for the future of our students!*



## FUNDING



**Optimally and Adequately Funding:** This has been and continues to be the foundational component to iNVEST since its first publication in 2003. Providing Nevada's school districts and their students with the widely acknowledged and documented optimal per pupil funding to ensure small class sizes, diverse course offerings, safe and healthy environments, competitive compensation for educators, manageable caseloads as well as providing for consistency of funding for school capital projects remains the cornerstone of the answer to the question, "What is needed to improve student achievement in Nevada?"

To that end, NASS requests the Nevada Legislature:

- Fund the base at optimal levels for all students while providing additional financial supports for Nevada's most at-risk children.
- Increase state spending on public education by creating broad-based new revenue streams to support optimal funding for all students.
- Protect school districts who have lost enrollment due to the COVID-19 pandemic by holding them "harmless" in FY21 to enable districts to continue vital programs for students.

NASS unequivocally desires to achieve its mission of providing the highest quality education to all children in Nevada. If we are to fulfill this mission, there must be an optimal and reliable revenue stream.

## CONNECTING



**Connecting:** There are approximately 496,000 students in Nevada, with more than two-thirds from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds. In the midst of a global pandemic, the need to address the equity and access for students is critical. Being able to access learning in new ways, driven by technology, is essential given the health and safety uncertainties of the pandemic. School districts need:

- Connectivity to a curriculum through devices, internet, sustainable programming, instructional materials, and professional learning for all staff to ensure student achievement is top priority.
- The need for digital connectivity around Nevada has become apparent during the pandemic. Technological connectivity is a broader community issue and requires leadership at the state level to build upon the work of the school districts to date.
- The pandemic also highlighted how important connecting with adults is for student mental health and well-being. Mental health services cannot be overlooked. We need to continue to staff schools in a way that allows students to have the social and emotional supports needed in order to be successful.

## STREAMLINING



**Streamlining:** During this time of extremely strained and stressed educational systems, we cannot afford to have staff and students spending time and energy on non-essential, often unfunded requirements. NASS is asking for the:

- Elimination of and prohibition of any and all unfunded mandates which would allow educators and staff to focus their time, energy and resources on serving student needs instead of complying with state laws.
- Removal of rigid and time-consuming requirements around testing, student discipline and staff evaluations would allow educators to focus on student academic goals.

**School districts have had to completely rethink operations in light of the global COVID-19 pandemic. This crisis has brought a particular focus on the role school districts play for students and in communities providing access to essential functions from childcare to food. We need to refocus on supporting districts in meeting the needs of the students and families they serve.**