

# Legislative Update

## CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Saturday, May 16, 2015

Yesterday, May 15, marked another major deadline for bills, and today, Saturday, was filled with a nearly 6-hour hearing to close the K-12 budget.

A total of 39 bills failed to meet Friday's Committee Passage, Second House deadline – 29 assembly bills and 10 senate bills. The following list of seven bills were on our tracking list, but will not advance:

- AB111**      *Revises provisions relating to the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship. (BDR 34-258)*
- AB148**      *Revises provisions governing firearms. (BDR 5-242)*
- AB352**      *Revises provisions relating to concealed firearms. (BDR 15-1070)*
- AB374**      *Revises provisions governing education. (BDR 34-1064)*
- SB164**      *Revises provisions prohibiting certain discriminatory acts. (BDR 18-59)*
- SB167**      *Revises provisions relating to employment. (BDR 18-265)*
- SB339**      *Authorizes the Nevada System of Higher Education to impose additional restrictions relating to the use of tobacco. (BDR 15-873)*

In a nearly 6-hour hearing held today, the Joint Committee of Senate Finance and Assembly Ways and Means met to go through the major education budgets and make decisions related to funding levels for the next biennium. In addition to the \$2.8 billion allocated to the Distributive School Account, here are the major highlights from the budget hearing:

- Full-day Kindergarten: \$36.5 million
- Zoom Schools: \$100 million
- Victory Schools: \$50 million
- Read by Three Initiative: \$27.5 million
- Increased funding for students with disabilities: \$25 million
- Increased funding for Gifted and Talented Education: \$10 million
- Great Teachers and Leaders: \$10 million
- Class size reduction funding: \$356 million (includes kindergarten at 21:1)
- Social Workers in Schools: \$36 million
- Career and Technical Education & College and Career Readiness: \$8 million
- Jobs for America's Graduates: \$4.6 million
- Charter School Harbor Master: \$10 million (match funding)
- Nevada 21 Technology Grants: \$20 million
- Turnaround Schools: \$5 million

There are many nuances to the education budget (thus the six-hour hearing!), and at the end of the day, an incredible *increase* in funding for education programs (both old and new) totaled around \$680 million dollars. Local districts will struggle with their budgets because the DSA funding did not increase as much as local districts projected, but expanding major programs such as full-day kindergarten (ALL Nevada students will have access to full-day kindergarten by 2017!) and doubling the number of Zoom schools is exciting. In addition, the creation of new programs – including programs such as Victory Schools, Read by Three and Nevada 21 Technology Grants –

will make a huge difference for our students. Significant additions to special education funding and career-tech programs, and a huge increase for GATE programs will also have a major impact on our students.

But today's budget hearing and the allocations earmarked for education will be meaningless if a tax package to fund the budget is not passed. This funding discussion will certainly be the focal point of the next two weeks. For education advocates, this is a good time to reach out to members of the two money committees to thank them for their work and to encourage all legislators to support a funding package.

## Highlights from Week 15:

### MONDAY, MAY 11

#### Assembly Government Affairs

- ~ **SB70** - Open Meeting Law bill was amended to allow boards and commissions up to 45 days or the next meeting, whichever is later, to approve the minutes of the public body. The bill was heard this week and passed without any further changes.

### TUESDAY, MAY 12

#### Assembly Ways and Means and the Senate Committee on Finance

- ~ Budget report that was agreed to by the K-12 Funding Subcommittee for the Nevada Department of Education was heard. This is the next step in the process for the full committee to approve the Department's budget.

#### Senate Committee on Education

- ~ **AB351** – The Senate Committee on Education held a work session for AB351, a bill that will expand the number of charter schools that will be eligible for the state charter facility loan program created in 2013. The bill allows for 3 stars schools to become eligible as well as the 4 and 5 star charters.

#### Assembly Ways and Means

- ~ **SB504**, the bill that changes the definition of bullying, the time lines for reporting and investigating bullying, and certain related penalties, was heard and passed by the Ways and Means Committee. The bill moved forward to the Assembly and passed by a 36-6 vote on Thursday. It will now be transmitted to the Governor's Office to be signed into law.

#### Senate Education

- ~ **AB121**, commonly known as the "Pop Tart" bill, limits student discipline in grades K-8 for gestures, clothing, and/or food made into or referring to weapons. The bill was supported by educational organizations.
- ~ **AB206** requires school districts to include a list of resources when a report on a health screening or bullying incident occurs. The bill was supported by educational organizations and received no opposition.
- ~ **Work Session**
  - **AB107** – Accountability Reports – Amend and Do Pass
  - **AB278** – Class Size Reduction Oversight – Do Pass
  - **AB285** – Diabetes Insulin Self-Administration – Do Pass
  - **AB321** – Police Services – Amend and Do Pass
  - **AB351** – Charter School Construction – Do Pass

## Senate Finance

- ~ **Work Session:** All of these bills were amended to remove the appropriations so that the policy could move forward. Appropriations will be approved during the budget closings and all of these bills are contingent upon being funded.
  - o **SB391** - Read by 3 – Amend and Do Pass
  - o **SB405** - Zoom schools – Amend and Do Pass
  - o **SB432** - Victory schools – Amend and Do Pass
  - o **SB474** - Great Teaching and Leading Fund – Amend and Do Pass

## **WEDNESDAY, MAY 13**

### Assembly Committee on Transportation

- ~ **SB410** – The bill that will allow activity school buses to go the posted speed limit. This bill does not change the mandatory 55mph limit for buses picking up and dropping off students. It is only for those buses taking students to activities outside of school hours.

### Assembly Committee on Education

- ~ **Work Session**
  - o **SB330** – Do Pass

### Assembly Committee on Judiciary

- ~ **SB58** provides for the sharing of limited data between school districts and the juvenile justice system. The bill is the result of work conducted by the Nevada Supreme Court's Commission on Statewide Juvenile Justice Reform during the interim. It received support from the Clark County District Attorney's Office, Clark County Juvenile Justice, and Clark County School District.

### Assembly Committee on Education

- ~ **Work Session**
  - o **SB394** – Personal Safety – Do Pass

## **THURSDAY, MAY 14**

### Assembly Ways and Means

- ~ **AB234** – The Assembly Ways and Means Committee held a work session for AB234, a bill to require multi-cultural education to be implemented in all social studies academic standards.

### Senate Committee on Finance

- ~ **SB460** establishes an alternative performance framework for measuring the performance of schools that primarily students with behavior issues or have an individualized education plan (IEP). CCSD has a fiscal note on the bill to purchase an assessment that can be used in the alternative schools to measure student academic performance while attending the school.
- ~ **SB461** – The Senate Committee on Finance heard SB461, a bill that creates individual graduation plans for students who may be in need of another year in high school in order to graduate.
- ~ **SB508** – This bill is the Governor's bill to codify the changes to the funding formula and to initiate a average daily enrollment calculation for student funding. CCSD advocates that in addition to the measures in this bill, that the bill should also incorporate the specific deadlines and students weights to the formula found in SB397, the funding formula bill that came from the work of the Interim Task Force on the Funding Formula.

### Senate Committee on Education

- ~ **AB120** – The Senate Committee on Education heard AB120, a bill that attempts to clarify the 1<sup>st</sup> amendment religious rights of students in schools. The bill allows for freedom of religious expression as long as it does not disrupt the learning environment or is used to bully or disrespect another student. The bill also requires school districts to create a grievance system for students to use if they feel their religious rights have been muted.

~ **Work Session**

- **AB321** – School Police in Charter Schools – Amend and Do Pass
- **AB341** – Dyslexia – Amend and Do Pass
- **AB447** – Nevada Educator Performance Framework – Amend and Do Pass

**FRIDAY, MAY 15**

Assembly Judiciary

~ **Work Session**

- SB175** – Stand Your Ground – Amended to include campus carry on college campuses and store guns in locked vehicles on public school property  
**SB192** – Sexual Misconduct of School Employee – Amend and Do Pass

Senate Committee on Education

~ **Work Session**

- AB117** – School Bus Leasing – Amend and Do Pass  
**AB120** – Religion – Do Pass  
**AB166** – Biliteracy – Amend and Do Pass  
**AB178** – Student Discipline – Amend and Do Pass  
**AB328** – Hearing Officers – Amend and Do Pass  
**AB421** – SAGE Commission – Amend and Do Pass

## Coming Up:

To keep current about hearings that are scheduled (and sometimes rescheduled) during the session, it's important to utilize the "Calendar of Meetings" link on the Nevada Legislature website ([www.leg.state.nv.us](http://www.leg.state.nv.us)). There you will find the most accurate list of committee meeting dates and times as well as the bills scheduled to be heard.

### Upcoming Meetings Week of May 18 – 22, 2015

Bill #	Description	Sponsors	Next Meeting Title	Next Meeting Date
SB391	Revises provisions governing educational instruction in the subject of reading. (BDR 34-644)	Harris, Kieckhefer, Farley, Roberson, Woodhouse, Atkinson, Denis, Ford, Goicoechea, Gustavson, Kihuen, Lipparelli, Manendo, Parks, Settlemeyer, and Spearman	Assembly Committee on Education	5/18/2015 1:15 PM
SB405	Expands the program of Zoom schools and the provision of programs and services to children who are limited English proficient in certain other schools. (BDR S-887)	Senators Denis, Woodhouse, Manendo, Harris, Kihuen, Atkinson, Ford, Roberson, Segerblom, Smith, and Spearman; Assemblymen Diaz, Flores, Elliot Anderson, Bustamante Adams, and Stewart	Assembly Committee on Education	5/18/2015 1:15 PM

## Attachments

This update references the following materials which are attached to the email:

*CCSD Legislation Status Report 05-16-15*

## Want to Learn More?

**The Role of Conference Committees:** As we come to the close of the 2015 Legislative Session, bills will be brought before their respective floors and passed with or without amendments. Almost all bills that are passed (or defeated) will look different from when they were first adopted and transmitted over from their house of origin. A bill that passed the Assembly a month ago may look entirely different than the bill that just passed the Senate.

At this point, since the bill is allowed no more hearings, who decides which version of the bill gets to go to the Governor for his signature?

The Nevada Legislature has a process in place for this exact scenario. First, there is the opportunity for the house of origin of the bill to either confer or not confer with the amended version of the same bill from the 2<sup>nd</sup> house. If the body confers, this is the version that will head to the Governor's office. If the body does not confer, each house will then appoint a certain number of members from their respective bodies to serve on what is called a "conference committee."

Conference committees are formal meetings where the assigned legislators attempt to find middle ground on the two versions of a bill. If no agreement can be reached, the bill dies. If they do find agreement, a report is delivered to each house explaining the negotiated language. The report can then be adopted by acclamation, which is considered the equivalent of final passage. Should both houses consent to the conference committee report, the final version of the bill will then be sent to the Governor's Office for his signature.

For bills that are important to you, following the work of a conference committee can be challenging and frustrating, but is also very important since a small group of legislators are tasked with the responsibility of working toward agreement.