



SESSION SPOTLIGHT

May 24, 2019

Nevada's 80th Legislative Session is only 10 days away from its scheduled end. Tonight is the deadline for second house passage as the legislature turns its focus toward the budget for the upcoming biennium. Lots of moving parts are still to be determined, especially when it comes to K-12 education, such as educator raises, school safety, and the funding formula.

SB543 - Funding Formula Bill

The bill to modernize the K-12 funding formula, **SB543**, was presented on Tuesday night in a joint session of Senate Finance and Assembly Ways and Means. The hearing lasted nearly seven hours with many members of the community coming out to share their views.

CCSD Superintendent Dr. Jesus Jara and Board of Trustees President Lola Brooks both testified in support of the new funding formula. CCSD supports the bill for three reasons:

1. It is more transparent for the public than the current funding formula
2. It ensure that new money going to K-12 education actually increases funding for education (it "supplements" education instead of "supplanting" money already going toward schools)
3. It provides funding for students who need more to educate, such as English Language Learners, at-risk students, gifted and talented students, students with special needs, and students who attend rural districts or small schools

The bill is awaiting a vote by the Senate Finance committee before it goes to a vote by the full Senate.

SB321 - Moving Achievement School District Schools to the Charter Authority

At Wednesday night's Senate Finance committee, **SB321**, a bill was heard that proposes to end the Achievement School District and move those schools to the State Public Charter School Authority. CCSD opposes efforts to transfer authority over CCSD schools to charter operators. The bill is exempt and does not need to be passed by tonight's deadline.

SB467 - Zoom and Victory School Funding

Also on Wednesday night, Senate Finance heard a presentation on **SB467** that will continue Zoom and Victory school funding for the biennium. CCSD continues to support this bill as the

new funding formula will go into effect until the 2021 - 2023 biennium. CCSD wants to ensure structured programs with proven results continue to receive funding.

AB168 - Student Behavior Support

At Thursday's Assembly Ways and Means committee hearing, Assemblywoman Selena Torres presented **AB168**, which gives principals discretion on whether to expel students age 10 and younger for what are currently mandatory expulsions for battery on a staff member and distribution of a controlled substance. The bill also requires a plan of restorative justice for students age 11 and older who are expelled so the new school the student goes to has a plan to address behavior problems. This plan could include referring students to The Harbor or a social worker.

CCSD has worked closely with other stakeholders to earn support for this bill. The bill is exempt and does not need to be passed by tonight's deadline.

AB289 - Read by Grade Three

At Friday's Assembly Ways and Means committee hearing, Assemblywoman Sarah Peters presented **AB289**, which revises the Read by Grade Three law by removing the automatic retention if a third grade student does not meet proficiency levels. Now parents would need to give informed written consent to provide intervention services and intensive instruction after they have consulted with the principal and teacher. It also provides more student interventions throughout elementary school, **AB289** was passed by the committee and will head to the Assembly floor as this is another exempt bill not subject to tonight's deadline.

Floor Votes

With tonight being the deadline for non-exempt bills to pass the second house, both the Assembly and the Senate spent a good amount of time this week on the floor amending and voting bills to go to Governor Steve Sisolak for signature.

On Thursday's Assembly floor session, the Assembly unanimously passed **SB185**, which eases restrictions on background checks for volunteers in schools. This is a bill CCSD has been working on closely with sponsor Senator Heidi Gansert. The new law allows some people who are fingerprinted as part of their employment to be exempt from fingerprinting for volunteering at a school. It also defines which "supervised" and "unsupervised" volunteers must be fingerprinted. It now awaits signature from the Governor before it can become a law.

On Friday, the Assembly voted to pass **SB469** that amends the CCSD reorganization. The final version of the bill gives the Superintendent the power to decide how many schools each School Associate Superintendent oversees and allows schools to project enrollment for an upcoming semester instead of based on the previous semester enrollment. **SB469** also now awaits a signature from Governor Sisolak before it can become a law.

As always, you can find the full list of bills we are tracking [here](#).

[Current Scheduled Meetings for the Week of May 27, 2019](#)

The "[Calendar of Meetings](#)" on the Nevada Legislature Web site is always up to date.

Refer a friend!

Tell your friends to sign up for Spotlight by visiting ccsd.net/spotlight or by emailing their name and e-mail address directly to 2019SessionSpotlight@nv.ccsd.net.

CCSD Government Relations