



SESSION SPOTLIGHT

May 28, 2021

The final weekend of the 2021 Legislative Session has arrived. Nevada has officially transferred from the Nevada Plan to the Pupil Centered Funding Formula and the K-12 education budget has been passed by the legislature so we now have some understanding of what the landscape will look like for the next two years.

With three full days remaining of the 81st legislative session, lots of bills are still awaiting votes from either committees or the full floor. Legislators will work extremely long hours over the next few days to finish their business before the clock strikes midnight on Monday night. As bills pass the legislature, they are sent to the Governor's Office for a signature. A list of bills currently signed by Governor Steve Sisolak can be found clicking [here](#) (the list of bills tracked by CCSD also indicates which has been signed under the status tab).

The Clark County School District (CCSD) is tracking all bills closely to see how they may impact the District. One important pending item is a final floor vote to pass the bond rollover extension that allows school districts to continue building new schools and modernizing current school facilities.

Before we get to a few of this week's highlights, just a reminder to take a look at the "Want to Learn More" section at the end of this Session Spotlight newsletter. While the 2021 Legislative Session is coming to a close, legislators' work is never done. Information can be found in the "Want to Learn More" section regarding the committee work that takes place during the interim between legislative sessions.

K-12 Education Budget

After the K-12 Education Budget was closed last week and the Pupil Centered Funding Plan bill, SB439, was signed by the Governor, the K-12 Education Budget Bill was introduced first as a bill draft on [Monday night](#) and then introduced on the Senate Floor later that evening as SB458. The final statewide per-pupil student support for FY22 is \$10,204 and \$10,290 for FY23.

The budget bill was then quickly moved to the Assembly for a final vote. The reason for this is that the Nevada Constitution requires that the legislature pass the education budget prior to any other budget. With no changes to the original language, SB458 received a vote of 21-0 in the Senate and a vote of 41-0 in the Assembly. It is now awaiting a final signature by Governor Sisolak.

SB450 - School Capital Improvement

After passing the Senate floor last week and making its way to the Assembly, SB450, which allows schools districts to extend their bond rollover for 10 years for the purposes of construction, was rereferred to the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means where Senate Majority Leader Nicole Cannizzaro presented for a second time on [Tuesday morning](#).

On the Senate side, the bill received strong support from multiple stakeholders in the community. The Committee then proceeded to vote the bill out that same night by a vote of 13-2. The bill is now on the general file of the Assembly floor awaiting one final vote before it can make its way to the Governor's desk.

CCSD Bills - SB2 and SB66

Governor Steve Sisolak signed two CCSD sponsored bills recently passed by the Legislature. This marks the first time in more than 20 years that all District-sponsored bills have passed in a legislative session.

"I am pleased that both CCSD-sponsored bills have been passed by the Nevada Legislature and signed by Governor Steve Sisolak," said CCSD Board of School Trustees President Linda P. Cavazos. "Both bills will greatly benefit our children through education efficiency and ensuring that they have internet access during this age of digital learning."

"CCSD always puts students first, and the overwhelming support of both bills shows the Nevada Legislature recognizes the needs of our students and teachers," CCSD Superintendent Dr. Jesus F. Jara said. "Each CCSD-sponsored bill will help educators continue their focus on the District's core business: student success. I thank the Governor and Nevada Legislature for their continued support of our students and staff."

Under Nevada law, the CCSD Board of School Trustees is provided with two bill draft requests during regular legislative sessions. The Board voted to focus the 2021 efforts on issues impacting student achievement.

Senate Bill 2 (SB2) - Educator Efficiency

SB 2 is the result of the Board's request for changes to state law to increase the amount of class time dedicated to student instruction. The bill modifies requirements for kindergarten exams, reduces body mass index testing and eliminates some duplicate reporting. All these changes will allow students to have more seat time in class to focus on Nevada Academic Content Standards.

Senate Bill 66 (SB66) - Internet Access

SB 66 establishes a statewide system of gathering and reporting data about students' access to devices and the internet in their homes. The bill outlines plans to use the data to close gaps for students without internet access throughout the state and improve connectivity in areas of need.

Want to Learn More?

In case you didn't know: Every interim (the 2 years between legislative sessions) the Nevada Legislature does not simply go into hibernation. While the 120-day biannual session gets most of the publicity, members of the Legislature are still hard at work the rest of the time other 610 days they serve as elected officials. This work is done through interim committees that are created to work on complex issues between sessions. These committees also receive reports and provide oversight to programs the government has already put in place.

Several interim committees are established through Nevada law. These committees deal with fiscal issues (Interim Finance Committee), education (Legislative Committee on Education), health (Legislative Committee on Health) and many other matters that are important to Nevadans every day.

Beyond these mandated committees, the legislature may create additional ones to look at specific issues that either could not be decided upon during the 120-day session or to review an issue that may be creeping up on the horizon. These committees are born through a bill during the Legislative Session requiring the body to study a certain issue during the interim. These studies, however, cost money. So it is up to the Legislature to prioritize the studies that are most critical.

Once the legislature creates its priorities, each study committee has its members appointed and, usually, a technical committee appointed to help with the work. As soon as the interim committee is ready to do its work, meetings are held both in Carson City and Las Vegas in order to keep travel costs low and to encourage as much public participation as possible. Most committees will meet between 3-6 times depending on the budget and the complexity of the issue.

All in all, these interim committees and studies help shape the next Legislative Session. Just as the work of a legislator doesn't end once the final gavel is heard, the work of an education advocate must continue as well. To follow which studies are passed this session and when the work of the interim shall begin, please visit the Nevada Legislature's website at www.leg.state.nv.us.

For a list of bills CCSD is tracking click [here](#).

The ["Calendar of Meetings"](#) on the Nevada Legislature website provides up to date information regarding meetings.

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CCSD Government Relations