

EDUCATION INITIATIVES FOR THE NEW NEVADA

Governor Sandoval's Recommended Budget: 2017-19 Biennium

In the last biennium, Governor Sandoval proposed an ambitious plan to improve the education system across Nevada. With the legislature supportive of the policy and budget, the State Board of Education, Department of Education, Districts, and Charter Schools implemented the initiatives aimed at improving educational opportunities for all students. The Governor's Recommended Budget for the 2017-2019 Biennium maintains and expands these programs evidencing the Governor's ongoing commitment to our "Generations to Come." This budget reflects enhancements to programs that will continue to serve the full spectrum of grades and the diverse needs of students and educators. A partial list of the Governor's ongoing commitment and responsible investment proposed in his budget is included below; full details are available at the [Nevada State Budget Office](#).

CONTINUED EMPHASIS ON LITERACY AND EARLY LEARNERS

FUND PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT MATCH - \$13.78 Million

Nevada will enter its third year of a federal grant to expand quality and access in preschool services in identified high need communities in Churchill, Clark, Lyon, Nye, and Washoe County. The grant aims to double the number of at-risk students being served and provide access to full-day, quality programs and services. For the biennium, the State match equals \$13.8 million. Federal dollars received during the biennium total \$25.1 million (\$43 million over four years).

MAINTAIN VOLUNTARY FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN - \$170 MILLION

Maintain the funding to provide statewide, voluntary full-day kindergarten including class-size reduction funding at 21:1 student teacher ratio. This funding supports the additional costs associated with a full-day program.

READ BY GRADE THREE - \$44.5 MILLION

State General Fund of \$22.25 million in FY 2018 and FY 2019 representing an increase of over \$17 million from the 2015-2017 biennium. The funding will continue to support effective activities in improving the academic achievement of students in reading across Kindergarten through third grade (e.g., literacy coaches, grants, contracts, etc.). The Department's grant program will continue to augment reading proficiency programs in schools (district and charter) not served with Zoom or Victory programs. Literacy plans with performance measures are required from elementary schools that apply; with the adopted State Literacy Plan providing a foundation to build upon across the state.

MAKE RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENTS TO MODERNIZE THE NEVADA PLAN

INCREASE SPECIAL EDUCATION WEIGHT \$30 MILLION

Maintains the existing funding in support of students with disabilities and appropriates an additional \$30 million in funding for a total of \$183 million in FY 2018 and \$199 million in FY 2019 as a continued, responsible investment until the desired weight is achieved, as recommended by the Task Force Interim Study of 2013. Special education funding was converted to a weight in the 2017 fiscal year and the additional resources will continue to be expressed as a multiplier and allocated to each district on a per-pupil basis (NRS 387.121).

MAINTAIN THE SPECIAL EDUCATION CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT - \$5 MILLION

A State General Fund appropriation of \$5 million made in the first year of the biennium to establish the account and reimburse districts and charter schools for extraordinary expenses related to the education of students with disabilities. The account will be replenished in the second year of the biennium, if needed, to maintain \$5 million.

MAINTAIN ZOOM SCHOOLS PROGRAM AND EXPAND SERVICES TO MS/HS - \$142 MILLION

Maintains the current \$100 million in support of existing Zoom programs and appropriates additional State General Fund of \$42 million over the biennium. This investment will fund roughly 20 middle and high schools as services are expanded for English learners and long-term English learners in middle and high schools across the state. The expansion of the last biennium's pilot to middle and high school will continue to be monitored closely to evaluate effective programs and cost of service to inform the state's transition to funding "weights".

MAINTAIN AND EXPAND VICTORY SCHOOLS PROGRAM - \$80 MILLION

Maintains the current \$50 million in support of existing Victory schools and appropriates an additional \$30 million in the State General Fund over the biennium to expand the Victory Schools Program. The additional funding will be allocated by the Department to underperforming schools in the poorest zip codes in the state. Specific services are required, especially in the areas of integrated support and family engagement. The expansion of the 2015-2017 pilot program will provide spending and effectiveness information that will be used to modernize the Nevada Plan with "weights" in future years.

MAINTAIN AND EXPAND GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS, ESTABLISH WEIGHT - \$14.3 MILLION

Maintains the current \$10 million and appropriates an additional \$4.3 million in the State General Fund over the biennium to expand services to students qualifying for the Gifted and Talented Program (GATE). Only students who have been identified and served through State-approved assessment/processes are eligible. In the second year of the biennium, with additional resources added, the funding will be expressed as a uniform "weight" and allocated on a per-pupil basis (NRS 387.121).

CONTINUED EMPHASIS ON MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL

NEVADA READY 21 TECHNOLOGY GRANTS - \$20 MILLION

State General Fund of \$10 million in each fiscal year to continue the Nevada Ready 21 Technology Grant Program. Nevada Ready 21 transforms K-12 education by engaging all students in a personalized, learner centered education. Nevada Ready 21 teachers provide students with a 21st Century education that builds a vibrant, diverse economy by purposefully infusing technology into students' daily experiences. Nevada Ready 21 is a multi-year plan whereby middle schools will be the initial focus and high schools will follow.

CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE): ALIGNMENT WITH INDUSTRY - \$25 MILLION

Appropriate \$12.5 million in each fiscal year to support Career and Technical Education (CTE) and the ongoing alignment of CTE with quality career pathways culminating in credentials of value that are aligned with industry need. Total funding over the biennium represents a \$2 million increase from the current biennium. Additionally, \$240,000 in each year of the biennium is appropriated to support the student leadership organizations (\$40,000/each organization annually).

INCREASE COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS GRANTS - \$10 MILLION

Maintains the existing State General Fund of \$8 million and appropriates an additional \$2 million over the biennium for College and Career Readiness Grants. The Department will continue this competitive grant program with an emphasis to provide every student in every high school every opportunity to participate in advanced coursework, dual enrollment, and work-based learning experiences. This program aligns with and provides direct aid to schools to implement the Governor's emphasis on workforce development (S.B. 66 and S.B. 19).

JOBS FOR AMERICA'S GRADUATES (JAG) EXPANSION - \$7 MILLION

Appropriates \$3.5 million in each year of the biennium to support the existing JAG program and expansion to additional schools throughout the state. This appropriation reflects an additional \$1 million in funding over the biennium. JAG is a dropout prevention and career readiness program with a national track record of success.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT - \$1 MILLION

The Governor's budget maintains a statewide commitment to ensure all students have access to Advanced Placement courses and the opportunity to earn college credit while in high school. The continued funding will expand student participation in Advanced Placement courses with targeted grants to improve participation and passage rates among key population groups.

INVESTING IN CHANGE

MAINTAIN THE GREAT TEACHING AND LEADING FUND (GTLF) - \$9.8 MILLION

Maintain the General Fund appropriation of \$4.9 million in each year of the biennium. GTLF was created during the 2015 Legislative session, with the purpose of funding professional development, programs of preparation, peer assistance/review, and leadership training and development for teachers, administrators, and other licensed educational personnel, as well as programs to recruit, select, and retain effective teachers and principals.

MAINTAIN THE SOCIAL WORKER IN SCHOOL PROGRAM - \$22.4 MILLION

Appropriates \$11.2 million in each year of the biennium to maintain the Social Workers in School Program that provides a social worker or other licensed mental health worker in select schools. The Department of Education, through the Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment, will distribute block grants to school districts and charter schools to provide for contract social workers or other licensed mental health workers in schools to support students.

CONTINUE SUPPORT FOR UNDERPERFORMING SCHOOLS - \$5 MILLION

Maintain the State General Fund of \$5 million (\$2.5 million in each year) over the biennium to assist in school improvement efforts. These funds will be used for contracts, school leader professional development, performance management assessment, data driven instructional practices, staff incentives, and other services targeting student achievement in the lowest performing schools. The funds will provide a path to success and sustainability.

RECRUITING AND RETAINING EFFECTIVE TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS

MAINTAIN THE TEACHER INCENTIVE FUND - \$5 MILLION

General Fund appropriation of \$5 million over the biennium to provide financial incentives (not to exceed \$5,000 per teacher/per school year) to newly hired teachers to be administered through a district's performance pay and enhanced compensation program for the recruitment and retention of licensed teachers and administrators. Incentives are provided for teachers or administrators for service in a Title I or other school that receives one of the two lowest possible ratings as determined by the Department. The balance of the Teacher Incentive Fund (\$7.5 million per year from FY 2016 and FY 2017) is transferred to fund the expansion of services to English learners, anticipating a policy change to allow for Zoom funding including incentives as an allowable expense – in alignment with Victory.

EXPAND TEACH NEVADA SCHOLARSHIPS - \$6 MILLION

General Fund appropriation of \$6 million over the biennium (an increase from \$5 million) to expand the number of scholarships awarded to eligible students. The Teach Nevada Scholarship is one of many efforts to address the teacher shortage by increasing the quantity and quality of effective teachers, and ensuring equitable distribution of teachers across all schools. The purpose of the program is to provide grants to universities, colleges and providers of alternative route to licensure programs to award scholarship to students entering teaching programs. Programs may award scholarships up to \$3,000/semester (not to exceed \$24,000 aggregate). . Programs that receive funds shall disburse 75% of the scholarship at the beginning of each semester and place the remaining 25% in a trust account for distribution to the recipient after teaching in a Nevada public school for five consecutive years.

MAINTAIN TEACHER SUPPLY REIMBURSEMENT - \$5 MILLION

Continued General Fund appropriation of \$5 million over the biennium for an allocation to each school district to reimburse teachers for certain out-of-pocket expenses.