

The Nevada Association of School Superintendents (NASS) is comprised of the 17 school districts' superintendents and the Executive Director of the State Public Charter School Authority. Monthly meetings are held to discuss issues and initiatives impacting all members' district and school operations as they ensure all Nevada students are prepared for life after graduation from a Nevada public school.



Since 2003, NASS has produced **iNVEST**, an acronym for “**Investing in Nevada’s Education, Students and Teachers**”. This publication has served as a blueprint for academic improvement for all Nevada K-12 students and answers the question, “What is needed to improve student achievement in Nevada?” Throughout the years, iNVEST has been shared with legislators and stakeholders before and during each legislative session to help inform legislation that will positively impact K-12 student achievement for all students.

Much has been accomplished in the last 20 years since the inception of iNVEST. However, there is still work to be done. In addition, times have changed since 2003, and new issues have arisen. The pandemic magnified challenges for school districts and students, including but not limited to the mental health of students and staff, the need for all students to have access to technology, and securing impactful strategies to address the learning gap students experienced as a result of reduced in-person learning.

In addition, the new **Pupil Centered Funding Plan (PCFP)**, created through **SB 543** in the 2019 legislative session, has resulted in new opportunities for districts as well as new challenges. Adequacy of funding remains the key component to providing districts with the ability to improve student achievement.

The importance of a high-quality educational system in Nevada cannot be overstated. The economy and the overall quality of life for everyone depends on it. Proper funding is the key component to making the system work. The State General Fund’s support for K-12 education must increase on par with State revenue growth over the next biennium.

The focus of iNVEST 2023, produced by NASS and endorsed by the 17 school districts’ boards of trustees, continues to be the blueprint of the needs of districts coupled with accountability for additional funding. iNVEST 2023 provides a roadmap for the 2023 Legislature to answer the question, “**What is needed to improve student achievement in Nevada?**”



The 2023 Legislature will play a pivotal role in changing the trajectory of Nevada's education landscape and outcomes by addressing and passing legislation that:

- substantially **increases per-pupil funding** by adding \$270.8 million in new funding for FY24, aligned to 10-year incremental target values for optimal funding as identified by the [Commission on School Funding¹](#). This increase in funding is necessary so districts can hire and retain high-quality staff in a competitive market facing record-level inflationary pressure. There is a staffing crisis and Nevada must create innovative ways/pathways to increase staffing. All employees must be provided a livable family wage. Districts must also have the ability to hire additional staff in order to reduce class sizes and meet state-adopted target ratios for administrative, certified, and classified positions.
- fully funds the weights assigned in the PCFP so all students receive the **appropriate and equitable level of support** no matter their zip code or circumstance.
- **modernizes educational statutes** to allow for innovation such as Competency-Based Education, Work Based Learning (WBL), Career and Technical Education (CTE), Dual Enrollment and "Jump Start" programs, STEM/STEAM, robotics, and other elective offerings without adding more mandates with no financial backing. Ensuring access to innovative programs and offerings at all schools and grade levels throughout the state is imperative for our students to be successful in today's global economy.
- provides funding to **enable schools to be technology-rich** and aligned with modern workplace expectations. In addition, the wireless network must be accessible to all schools and families.
- **invests in school safety measures** with an emphasis on addressing mental health issues. Investing in school counselors, social workers, psychologists, nurses, and community health workers at every school will enable districts to support the whole child.
- ensures a safer, more secure learning environment through the implementation of funding mechanisms that are dedicated exclusively to school facilities. It is critical for districts to be able to conduct operational and preventative maintenance on buildings in order to reduce downtime and ultimately reduce repair maintenance costs. **Districts must be able to construct new schools** in order to keep up with growth and decrease class sizes.



The above reflects the needs of all districts. However, funding provided by the Legislature must remain flexible as the needs are unique from district to district. The superintendents are appreciative of the work done in the past by the Nevada Legislature to respond to the needs of the changing face of the Nevada classroom and look forward to working with Legislators during the 2023 Session.

¹Commission on School Funding Report, November 2022 https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Research/Documents/RTTL_2021_AB495_Sec60_2022.pdf