

Draft Position Statement

Education is a major economic driver for the State of Nevada. Nevada's current national rankings in large part are due to the **consistently low (inexcusable)** funding levels. The State Board of Education believes Nevada's children are capable of being in the top ten nationally if optimal funding levels are allocated. Every person in Nevada is impacted by the lack of funding towards education. In preparation for the upcoming 2023 Legislative Session, the State Board of Education has developed recommendations to improve Nevada's national rankings:

- Educator recruitment, training, retention, and support
 - Increased investment in teacher preparation programs and teacher pipeline is imperative for the State of Nevada. There is a statistical decline in the number of individuals seeking post-secondary education degrees. The current number of educator vacancies across the State is approximately 3,000 and worsening annually. Additionally, there is an identified need for approximately 740 more school psychologists, social workers, and mental health professionals. Without funding to support the mental health of our educators and students, Nevada will continue to fail its entire education system. Failure to increase education funding will result in further vacancies and impact Nevada's ability to retain quality educators. Additional funding will provide for lowering class sizes, increasing wages, and replacing outdated instructional materials.
- Pre-K Programs
 - It is estimated that the total number of 4-year old's eligible for Pre-K is 39,241. Nevada currently funds less than 2,750 Pre-K students which is only 7% of the total eligible students. If the State of Nevada is committed to making Pre-K available to every family, the legislature must address funding.
- Infrastructure (physical and technological)
 - The State of Nevada's education system is currently deficient in technology (broadband, laptops/devices, classroom equipment, software (data capture/analysis), HVAC systems, busses, buildings, etc. Additional funding will ensure that Nevada's rankings will not continue to suffer due to solvable infrastructure issues.

The following State of Nevada representatives are committed to the action steps required to increase funding **which will improve Nevada's delivery of a high-quality education to all students and thus** improve our national education ranking.

Sincerely,
The Nevada State Board of Education