



## Education Priorities

Nevada Legislative Session 2017 - Education

The 2017 legislative session provides plenty of opportunity to make a difference for education. Let your representatives know that we need to prioritize Nevada's children.

**Private School Vouchers (Education Savings Accounts/ESAs)** provide parents roughly \$5,100 to attend private school, but have no restrictions based on income level, special education status, or other factors, meaning even wealthy families can receive assistance. The Governor is proposing \$60 million for ESAs – funds needed by our public schools. Vouchers don't work for low-income families:

- Private schools cost between \$8,000 and \$10,000 so families would have to subsidize several thousands of dollars per student per year.
- Most private schools are in Summerlin and Henderson and don't provide transportation or free or reduced lunch. Additional costs include uniforms, supplies, application fees and other materials.
- Private schools can choose to not accept or serve a student if they are of a different religion, if they are disabled, or based on their sexual preference.

**Say no to ESA voucher and ask your legislator to vote no on SB506.**

**Education Funding** - Senate Bill 178, sponsored by Senator Mo Denis, aims to put in place an adequate school funding formula for all Nevada children based on individual need. Our students deserve proper resources, but during this session we won't have all the funds necessary for a full implementation.

So what should we do in the interim? We should invest in ZOOM Schools that help our English Language Learners and Victory Schools that support high-poverty schools. These programs provide smaller classrooms, an extended school year, summer programs, reading skill centers, and incentive funds to recruit experienced high-quality teachers.

**Let's ask our legislators to support the continuation of ZOOM (SB 390) and Victory (AB 447) School programs**, and expansion for the 80,000 students who also need these programs while we transition to a fully funded weighted formula.

**Pre-K Funding** - Low-income children often arrive at kindergarten already behind affluent children. Preschool can help level the playing field by providing the developmental boost that low-income and ELL students need to succeed in school. There are over 37 thousand 4-year-olds in the state, but only about 5,500 children in Nevada's Pre-K programs. Let's support Assembly Bill 186, sponsored by Assemblywoman Olivia Diaz to expand Pre-K.

**Let's set up our student for success from the start and support Pre-K funding! Yes to AB 186!**