ENN EDUCATE NEVADA NOW
POWERED BY THE ROGERS FOUNDATION

The 2017 Legislative Session provides an opportunity to move towards fair and equitable funding in Nevada and provide the resources our students need to succeed. The state has been chronically underfunded for years, it remains one of the lowest funded states in education and has been subject to an outdated, 50-year-old funding formula.

What can we advocate for this session to make a difference for our kids?

There's no quick fix to the problem, but Nevada can move the needle on providing opportunity to the students most in need, while moving towards full fair funding in the State.

1. Ensuring funding Remains for Programs with Return on Investment (ROI) – ZOOM and Victory

Nevada must ensure that programs that do work remain in place and are expanded. Ideally it would be great to provide extra funding for every student based on their needs, but we also know there is not enough money right now to ensure that. Investing in ZOOM Schools that help our English Language Learners and Victory Schools that support high-poverty schools ensures results and accountability. In their two years of implementation Victory Schools, which allow community and school leaders to choose interventions that best support their school, have seen an overall increase in student proficiency in English and Math. After one to two years at our ZOOM Schools, ELL students consistently read on grade level.

Why do ZOOM Schools work?
They must:
- *Provide pre-kindergarten free of charge;*
- *Expand full-day kindergarten classes;*
- *Operate reading skills centers;*
- *Provide professional development for teachers in the area of   ELL instruction;*
- *Incentivize the recruitment and retention of quality teachers;*
- *Improve parental engagement;*
- *Provide free summer school with transportation.*

Bipartisan supported ZOOM and Victory schools show ROI and are effective for 75,000 students at 75 schools. However, there are still 80,000 children in Clark County attending low-performing schools that don't have access to these quality programs and don't have quality charter schools or affordable private schools as alternatives. At one or two star schools only one to three children out of ten are reading at grade level.

These schools are in desperate need for targeted programs that work, or they won't have a chance. **We support ZOOM (SB 390) and Victory (AB 447) School programs, and support their continued funding and expansion during the transition to a fully funded weighted formula.**

#ZOOM2VictoryNV   **#FullyFundedFirst**

2. Modernizing and Fully Funding the Nevada Plan

Nevada needs to update its funding formula in a responsible way with the goal of providing the resources necessary for ALL students to achieve.

Senate Bill 178 creates a weighted student funding in the state, to eventually reach levels to ensure academic success for all students. Weighted funding means that certain students groups, such as English Language Learners, at-risk (low-income), and special education students receive a weight or "multiplier" to meet the unique needs of these students. For example, the bill proposes a weight of 1.5 for ELL students, so if a district were receiving $5,000 per pupil, each ELL student would receive $7,500 per pupil.

But creating weights alone cannot fix the problem. The Legislature's own studies assessing the cost of educating Nevada students have found the state is chronically underfunding our students, even general education students. If the state commits to "weights" but doesn't commit to increasing revenue for education, students will get "diluted" assistance with no real impact.

We support SB 178's incremental move towards a weighted funding formula, but only if targeted programs, such as Zoom and Victory, remain in place while the legislature finds revenue sources to fully fund all students.

Let your legislator know you care about fair and equitable funding in Nevada, so that all children have the opportunity to succeed, regardless of background, income, or where they live!

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