

## Nevada uses an outdated formula to fund our schools

Modern school funding formulas take into account the “unique” needs and how much it costs to educate each child. The Nevada Plan, developed more than 50 years ago, does not.

Thanks to Governor Sandoval and legislative leaders, since 2013 Nevada has added some targeted, additional funding, known as categorical funding, dedicated to low-income, English Language Learners, and Gifted and Talented students. Programs like Zoom and Victory Schools are a solid beginning toward equitable funding that helps all kids succeed, but they only help students who attend those schools – about one-third of kids in need.

## All students suffer under Nevada’s school funding system

A national report card, “Is School Funding Fair,” ranks Nevada as having the most regressive funding formulas in the nation. Unfair funding impacts every child and threatens Nevada’s economic future.

Districts shift money from most students to help pay for students who cost more to educate – and all kids suffer.



## Underfunding Some Students Affects All Students

For example, special education students entitled to individualized services can cost more than double the amount normally allocated to each pupil in Nevada. Nevada underfunds special education by an estimated \$380 million a year. This forces districts to divert 10-15% of their general education budgets to fund special education.

## Studies indicate the need for a weighted funding formula

We know this is a problem, and we know the solution. In 2006, the Legislature commissioned a cost study; another one in 2013; in 2015, the Lincy Institute updated prior work. These studies put the price tag of an equitable and modern funding formula at over \$1 billion additional monies for public education.

This is an investment we must make to secure a bright future for our kids and our community.



# UNDERSTANDING “WEIGHTED FUNDING”



## A bipartisan advisory group recommends “weights”

In 2015, the bipartisan K-12 Funding Task Force analyzed independent cost studies and suggested Nevada create “weights” to provide more funds for kids who cost more to educate. For example, special education students would receive a 2.0 weight – they would be funded at twice the amount of a general education student.

## SB 508 mandates a weighted funding formula

The bill was designed to modernize the 50-year-old formula, and noted the need to “meet the unique needs” of student groups, specifically special education, English language learners, students living in poverty, and gifted and talented students.

## The 2017 Legislature and Governor Sandoval should “fund the weights”

While the Nevada Department of Education is supporting weights for at-risk students in 2017, it’s important that we “fund the weights” with additional money, instead of shifting around the little funding we have for schools.



**Join us this legislative session to fight for fair funding, so that all students have the opportunity to succeed, regardless of wealth, background, or where they live.**

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