



SESSION SPOTLIGHT

April 12, 2019

Committee hearings continued at a rapid pace this week in order for legislators to have their bills survive tonight's deadline to pass each bill's original committee. Numerous bills that deal with education were heard and amended during that time span, including some from [CCSD's Legislative Platform](#).

Read By Grade 3

Tuesday, in the Assembly Committee Education hearing, Assemblyman Tyrone Thompson presented **AB289**, which revises the Read by Grade 3 initiative passed in 2015. The bill expands literacy supports to every grade in elementary school. **AB289** also gives the parent final say before a student can be retained unless a parent is nonresponsive. **AB289** also makes the grants given by the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) to support literacy noncompetitive and would instead allocate the funds based on a weighted formula that takes into account the needs and pupil population of the school district. The Nevada Association of School Superintendents (NASS) testified in support of the bill on behalf of CCSD.

The committee then passed **AB289** during Thursday's work session and will now head to the Assembly floor.

Student-Teacher Ratios

Also on Tuesday, the Assembly Committee Education heard **AB304** from Assemblywoman Brittney Miller. The bill originally required that NDE set binding student-teacher ratios that must be met by the 2028-2029 school year. In any classroom in which the required ratio would not be met, the teacher would receive extra compensation. **AB304** also originally allowed student-teacher ratios to be determined in collective bargaining agreements. NASS testified in opposition of the bill because of concerns in not having the teachers and facilities needed to meet the required ratios. They also stated that class sizes should not be subject to negotiations.

The committee passed an amended version of **AB304** on Thursday that made the student-teacher ratio recommendations non-binding. It also requires school districts to post on their Web site actual class sizes 30 days after the start of the school year. CCSD supports these changes to the bill.

Handle with Care - Work Session

On Monday, in the Senate Committee on Education, the committee unanimously passed an amended version of **SB80**, CCSD's Handle with Care bill, which would provide school leaders with a heads up when a student suffers an off-campus traumatic incident. The amendment clarifies what a traumatic event requiring reporting would be, such as child abuse or neglect, domestic violence in the presence of the child, death of a family member, or arrest of a parent or guardian in the presence of the child. The amendment also makes it mandatory for an officer to submit a "Handle with Care" report if the child experienced one of these four aforementioned events as defined by the bill, while leaving it at the discretion of the officer to use their best judgment if a report is needed for any other type of incident.

Reorganization Amendments - Work Session

The Senate Committee on Education on Wednesday passed **SB469**, which amends the CCSD reorganization. **SB469** removes the cap on the number of schools that school associate superintendents can supervise. It also allows the allocation of funds to local school precincts to be estimated.

Charter School Moratorium - Work Session

On Thursday, in the Assembly Committee on Education work session, an amended version of **AB462** was passed. While the bill originally included a two-year stop prohibition on the formation of new charter schools, the amended version removed this moratorium and instead requires the Nevada State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) to prepare a five-year growth management plan. CCSD worked closely with Assemblyman Tyrone Thompson to amend **AB462** to include provisions from **AB78** of the 2017 session. This will ensure communication and collaboration must occur between the SPCSA and school districts when potential sites for charter schools are selected and that the academic needs of the area are evaluated.

Ending the Achievement School District (ASD) - Work Session

On Friday, in the Senate Committee on Education, another bill that CCSD has been heavily involved in, **SB321**, was passed during the work session. **SB321** removes the ASD from Nevada law and the amended version allows the four schools currently under the ASD to be transferred to the SPCSA.

School Safety - Work Session

Also on Friday, the Omnibus School Safety bill, **SB89**, also passed during the work session. This bill is a result of the recommendations of the Governor's Statewide School Safety Task Force. CCSD continues to support this initiative but will continue to advocate that our district receives proportional amount of the funds in order to have more police, social workers, and counselors on school grounds.

As always, you can find the full list of bills we are tracking [here](#).

[Current Scheduled Meetings for the Week of April 15, 2019.](#)

The "[Calendar of Meetings](#)" on the Nevada Legislature Web site is always up to date.

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