

2007 74th Legislative Session

Education made very small gains in funding but did make significant progress in policy issues this past legislative session.

AB212- Requires the school board of trustees to develop a four year academic plan for each student enrolled in 9th grade. Each academic plan must be developed with the student, the student's parents/legal guardian and school counselor.

*Section 3 requires that high schools whose population is greater than 1,200 provide a program of small learning communities.

The facility must have a separate geographic location in which 9th grade students attend class.

*Section 4 requires the State Board of Education to prescribe a uniform grading policy for all public high schools.

*Section 5 requires each school board of trustees of each school district to adopt a policy outlining the duties, roles and responsibilities of school counselors. This policy is born from the concern that counselors spend more time on testing and administrative duties than actually counseling students.

AB267- Authorizes the board of trustees in Clark and Washoe Counties to broadcast school board meetings.

AB313- Requires the Department of Education to adopt regulations that establish a procedure for the notification, tracking and monitoring the status of criminal cases involving licensed persons.

AB334, AB591 & SB404- All revise provisions governing charter schools

AB432- Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to provide written notice of the date of expiration of a person's license. Current law prescribes that a school district shall immediately suspend such a person without pay immediately.

*Section 3 provides that if the employee's license lapses during a school year, the employee must NOT be suspended from employment for 90 days or until the end of the school year, whichever is longer.

**NQE supported this bill only due to the teacher shortage and the impact removing a teacher during the school year has on the student.

AB485- This bill addresses drop out and truancy issues.

*Sections 1 and 2 require information on students who drop out in 8th grade to be included in accountability reports prepared by school districts and the State Board of Education.

*Section 3 requires Clark and Washoe Counties to establish a "school attendance council." The attendance council is required to implement a program to reduce truancy, monitor truancy incidents of students within the district and coordinate programs with community services that provide assistance for truant students.

*Section 6 requires school board trustees to monitor truancy.

AB627- Appropriations bill. This bill details education funding. Funding for full day kindergarten

is \$25,640,881 in fiscal year 2007-08 and \$40,834,698 in fiscal year 2008-09. The aforementioned dollar amounts are totals, not in addition to current full day kindergarten funding.

We recommend you go to the legislative site and read the bill in its entirety.

SB143 - Establishes an Advisory Council on Parental Involvement.

*A support team must be established for each school designated as demonstrating need for improvement for 3 consecutive years or more. Parental involvement accords and code of honor

are also included in this bill.

SB185 - Makes changes to the Commission on Educational Excellence.

SB238 - Establishes a program of empowerment schools.

SB239 - Creates a P-16 Advisory Council to assist in the coordination between elementary, secondary and higher education. The council will meet quarterly.

SB249 - Creates the Nevada Youth Legislative Issues Forum. The Forum will consist of 21 members who are enrolled in grades 9-12. Each senator appoints a member to the Forum. The Forum must hold 2 public hearings per year, review issues important to youth and submit an annual report of the activities of the Forum. The Forum may submit 1 bill draft request to the legislature.

SB312 - *Sections 1 & 2 expand the State Board of Education's requirement to report drop out rate information from grades 9-12 to now include grades 6,7 & 8.

*Section 4 requires the State Board of Education to prescribe an alternative criteria that a student may satisfy to receive a standard high school diploma if the student passes the reading and math portions of the proficiency exam and has failed the exam at least 3 times before the 12th grade. NQE believes this to be a step in the right direction as so many of our students are not graduating with a standard high school diploma. The stigma of leaving school with a certificate of attendance sets these students up to fail in life. The provision in Section 4 would have allowed approximately 20 Clark County students a standard high school diploma in the 06/07 school year. Testing will be part of an interim study between now and next session. NQE will be an active participant.

*Section 5 allows a student to receive credit for a course of study if the student demonstrates competency in the course by taking an examination.

*Section 9 expands the age of compulsory school attendance from 17 to 18 years of age.

SB400 - Establishes the Program of School Choice for Children in Foster Care. This bill allows the legal guardian or custodian of a child who is in foster care to apply to the program enrolling the student in a public school other than the school which the student is zoned to attend. This will provide academic continuity for children who are moved frequently from home to home and school to school.

SB535 - Authorizes school districts to operate an alternative program for all grade levels of pupils who are at risk of dropping out of school.

*Section 11 expands eligibility for independent study and clarifies distance education.

ACR6 - Urges trustees of school districts and higher education to expand the availability and scope of career and technical education in high schools where students receive college credit.