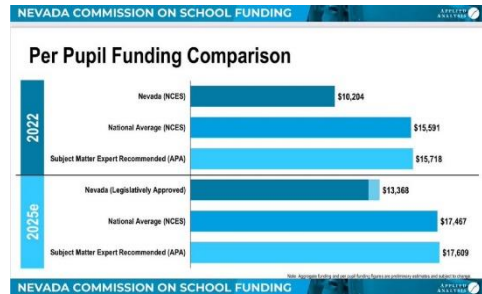


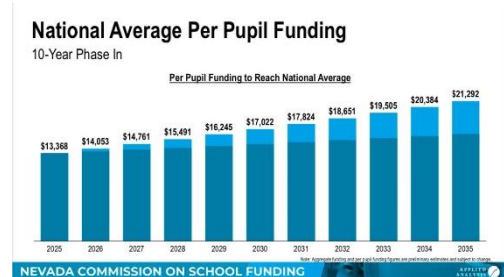
Public Comment to the Legislative Commission's Budget Subcommittee – 1.23.25

The Nevada State Education Association has been the voice of Nevada educators for 125 years.



As details of the Governor's budget submission are emerging, word of a possible reduction to per-pupil education funding is one of the most concerning. Even after record increases to education funding last session, Nevada trails the national average by more than \$4000 per student. If per-pupil funding is reduced, Nevada's students will fall further and further behind.

In 2019, the legislature created the Commission on School Funding and asked them to present a plan to reach optimal education funding in 10 years. The Commission developed [a plan](#) to do this by raising revenue with an expanded sales tax base and the closure property tax loopholes. This plan calls for \$700 increases to per-pupil funding in each of the next two years, costing just over \$600M over the biennium.



In his State of the State address last week, Governor Lombardo said Nevada can no longer blame a lack of funding for underperformance in schools. At the same time, his budget fails to follow the recommendations of the Funding Commission and instead proposes to cut per-pupil funding. That is why we are asking the Legislature to reject this proposal and continue the work to address Nevada's chronic underfunding of education. **Pass the plan** offered by the Commission on School Funding to reach optimal education funding in 10 years.

Two years ago, NSEA came to this table saying it was Time For 20. While we had issues with the mechanics of SB231, progress was made, and we were able to negotiate 20% raises in many Nevada districts. However, to continue the progress on educator retention, these funds should be made permanent, and frankly, new funds are needed. Continued progress will require significant political will and discipline to remain focused on the task. Proposals to divert public funds away from public schools, whether that be through a new mechanism to expand private school vouchers or a giveaway to Hollywood studios should be rejected.

Throughout Session, educators from across the state will amplify their voices, sharing powerful stories and firsthand experiences that highlight the pressing needs of our schools, the challenges faced by educators, and the resources required to ensure every student can thrive. We hope their insights will serve as a call to action, reminding you that meaningful change begins with listening to those on the front lines and prioritizing the needs of our public schools, educators, and students.