

Silver State Government Relations



Principals

Will Adler – will@ssgr.us

Sarah Adler – sarah@ssgr.us

Senior Associate

Alex Tanchek – alex@ssgr.us

January 22, 2025

To: Legislative Commission's Budget Subcommittee

From: Sarah Adler, SSGR, Representing the Coalition of Independent Public Charter Schools of Northern Nevada

Public Comment – Agenda Item VII.

Madame Chairs Dondero Loop and Monroe-Moreno, and members of the Committee,

I appreciate this opportunity to provide public comment subsequent to the presentation on K-12 funding and education initiatives by State Superintendent of Instruction Ebert and her team, who did an excellent job.

I am a former high school English teacher (including Deputy Superintendent Megan Peterson, I am enormously proud to report), a grandmother of Nevada K-12 students, a committed follower of the Commission on School Funding, which has done outstanding work, and a lobbyist on behalf of small independent public charter schools in northern Nevada. Drawing from each of these facets of my experience, I provide these comments with great concern and at the same time belief that you as a body are listening and will in a bipartisan manner produce solutions that will not leave Nevada's school children further behind in the funding that their teachers and schools need and deserve.

First, it was somewhat reassuring to learn today from Superintendent Ebert that per pupil funding will not decrease. However, it is essential for Governor Lombardo and legislators to understand that school expenses are increasing substantially; for example, the cost of utilities, the cost of vendor contracts, and, importantly, the required increase of 3.25% to their contribution to PERS.

Second, I bring to your attention the [CSF Full Report 2024](#). Over the last two years, as detailed in this report, the Commission has done yeoman's work on all of the areas assigned to it by SB53 (2019) and AB400 (2023) including how to finance education, how to measure performance, and how to streamline and align reporting with performance and accountability. This report is full of recommendations that would greatly support education systems if they appear in bills this session.



To today's subject, it details the amount of new funding needed in each of the next 10 fiscal years to bring Nevada to the national averageⁱ. Those numbers for this biennium are \$198M and \$208M for the two fiscal years. This group of experts is grave and urgent in its statements regarding the necessity of acting now to produce this additional funding.

The good news is the report is detailed and clear (see pages 12-52 of the report) in its analysis of how those funds can be raised over the ten-year period through a much-needed modernization of Nevada's tax structure. This is a problem that can be solved with benefit not only to education but to local governments and other recipients of property and sales tax as well. Senator Neal's SB 346 (2021 session) is cited as an effective first step in this process.

In closing, I pledge the support of the parents, teachers, and school leaders of the public charter schools with whom I work to your efforts to modernize tax structures and to increase per pupil and weighted funding, and I share the words of the Commission:

The Commission fully realizes that the funding challenge is considerable, and that it will take incredible will on the part of elected leaders to address it. However, we also recognize that failure to act is not a viable option. In the opinion of the Commission, the cost of inaction greatly exceeds the cost of implementing any of the funding strategies discussed herein.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

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NATIONAL AVERAGE INCREMENTAL AND AGGREGATE FUNDING REQUIREMENTS		
Fiscal Year	Incremental Shortfall	Aggregate Shortfall
2026	\$198,210,090	\$198,210,090
2027	\$208,160,237	\$406,370,327
2028	\$218,485,006	\$624,855,334
2029	\$229,196,936	\$854,052,270
2030	\$240,308,957	\$1,094,361,227
2031	\$251,834,406	\$1,346,195,633
2032	\$263,787,034	\$1,609,982,667
2033	\$276,181,027	\$1,886,163,694
2034	\$289,031,009	\$2,175,194,703
2035	\$302,352,064	\$2,477,546,767