



**NASB**

Nevada Association of School Boards

# Nevada Association of School Boards 2025 Reflection and 2026 Objectives

*Presented by*

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# NASB

Nevada Association of School Boards

# Introductions

Irene Bustamante Adams, President

Dr. Diane Nicolet, President -Elect

Rick Harris, Executive Director

Tom Clark, Government Affairs

# About NASB

The Nevada Association of School Boards (NASB) represents and supports all 17 school districts in Nevada, advocating for strong public education, training leaders, and ensuring success for students through effective governance.

- Elected (and appointed in CCSD), school boards serve as a vital link between local values and public education
- **NASB Representation** extends to organizations like NIAA, NV State Board of Education, Early Childhood Advisory Committee

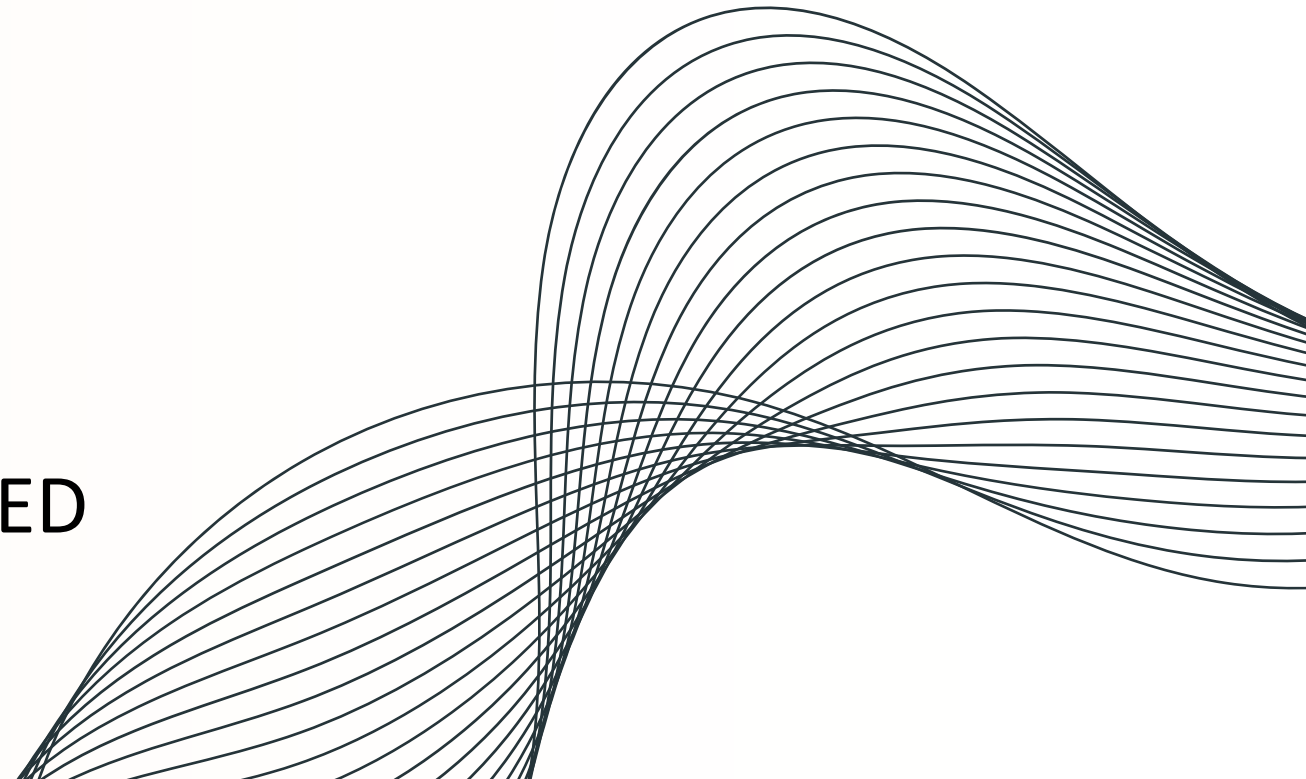
# Vision

NASB envisions a state where public schools are recognized as the foundation of a free and democratic society, where local citizen governing boards are fully vested with the means to advance the best interests of their students and the public, and where the futures of all children are driven by their aspirations, not bounded by their circumstances.

# NASB

# Core Supports

## Professional Development

- NRS 386.327 Requirement
  - On-Going Workshops and Trainings
  - Certified Public Official Certification
- 
- **Mentoring**
    - Monthly Topics and Ongoing Mentorship Pairings
- 
- **Advocacy**
    - State, Federal
- 
- **Commitment to Listening, Learning and Collaboration**
    - Entities like NASS, State Board of Education, NV Dept. of ED
- 



**NASB**

# **Professional Development – Guiding Principles**

**Excellence & Professionalism** – High-quality, first-class learning experiences

**Clear Outcomes** – Defined, measurable objectives for every session

**Intellectual Rigor** – Critical thinking and meaningful dialogue

**Practical Application** – Immediately applicable to governance and leadership

**Flexibility & Open -Mindedness** – A way, not the way

**Modern Instruction** – Guided learning, Socratic dialogue, diverse perspectives, passion & humor



# First Workshop of 2026 Professional Development Workshop

## Conflict Resolution

1. Managing conflict: team and group dynamics
2. The role of leadership in conflict resolution
3. Conflict is inherent in governance
4. Board behavior directly affects student outcomes
5. Public trust depends on how conflict is handled
6. Conflict can damage superintendent–board relationships
7. Prepared boards make better decisions
8. Conflict is an opportunity for stronger governance

## Key Takeaway

School board members are stewards of public trust, student success, and community confidence.

Understanding conflict —and having practical strategies to address it— is foundational governance work.

Prepared boards do not eliminate conflict. They lead through it —calmly, ethically, and with purpose

# NASB

## President-Superintendent Relationship

**Tone at the Top matters** : The Board President-Superintendent relationship sets expectations for governance, trust, and student outcomes statewide.

Role clarity prevents conflict:

- Governance  $\neq$  management
- Collective board authority  $\neq$  individual action

Board President's role:

- Facilitate effective meetings, build consensus, represent the board appropriately
- *No additional authority —greater responsibility only*

Strong partnership principles:

- Regular communication, Mutual trust and respect, Clear expectations

What protects stability:

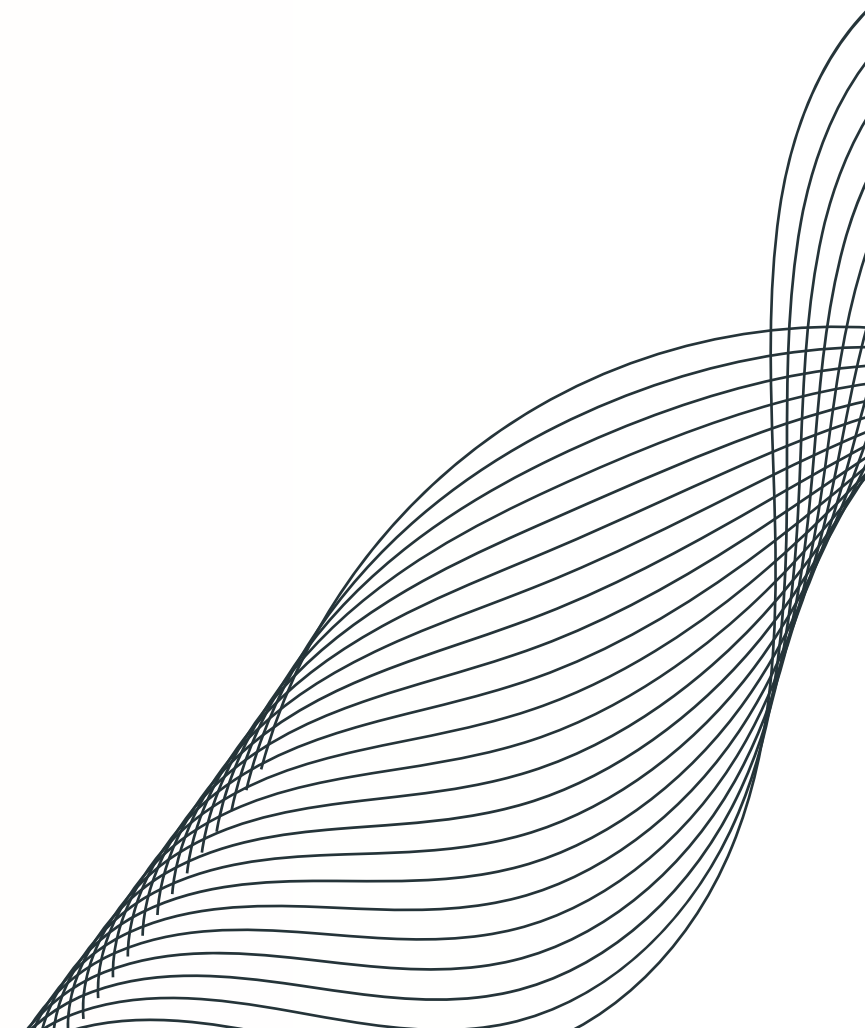
Respect governance boundaries, Support decisions once made, Address concerns privately

**Why it matters for Nevada** : Strong governance supports superintendent retention; Stability improves district performance



# First 90 Days

Monday, December 29	Executive Officer's meeting	Virtual 6pm
Tuesday, January 6	Legislative Interim Committees Launch	Virtual
Thursday, January 15	Joint Board Meeting	Virtual 6pm
Thursday, January 22	<b>Professional Development Workshop</b>	Virtual 6pm
Friday, January 30-31	NSBA Leadership Seminar	Washington, DC
Sunday, February 1-3	NSBA Advocacy Institute Washington, DC	Washington, DC
Thursday, February 21	<b>Board President's Workshop</b>	Las Vegas 9am-2pm
Tuesday, February 17	Joint Standing Committee on Education	Las Vegas 9am
Friday, March 20	Joint Board Meeting	Reno 4pm
Saturday, March 21	<b>Professional Development Workshop</b>	Reno 7am-2pm
	Breakfast with Legislators	
	Future Learning Plan	
	Portrait of a Learner Update	
	Legislative Priorities	
	School Safety	





# NASB

## Goals for 2026 from Executive Board

### **Professional Development**

Continue delivering high-quality, relevant professional learning opportunities for school trustees, maintaining a satisfaction rate of 90 percent or higher.

### **Advocacy**

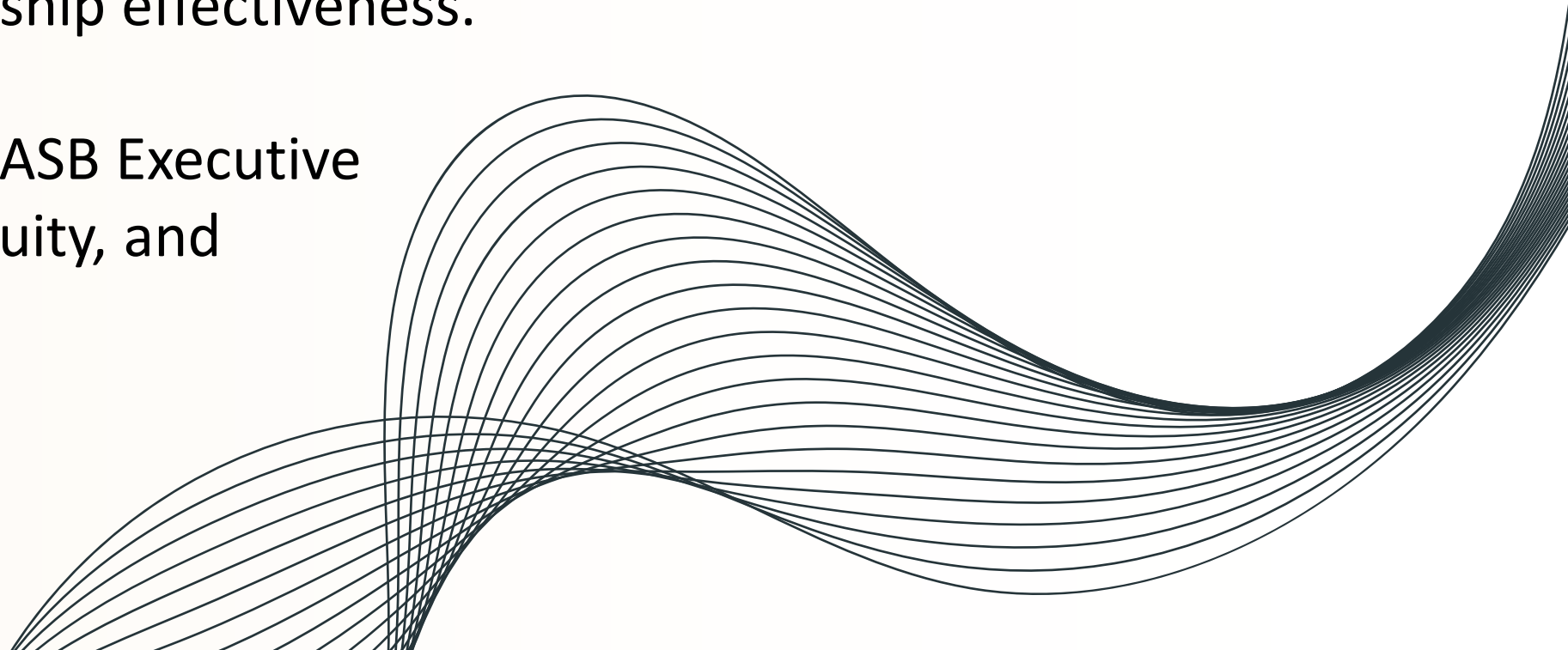
Strengthen NASB's advocacy efforts to effectively represent and advance the collective interests of Nevada's school boards at the state and federal levels.

### **Mentoring**

Continue providing a formal, structured mentoring program to support all new trustees in building confidence, governance knowledge, and leadership effectiveness.

### **Leadership Capacity**

Sustain and strengthen leadership capacity within the NASB Executive Leadership Team to ensure effective governance, continuity, and long-term organizational success.



# 2025 Reflection LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

#1. Rural Schools Funding Initiative

#2. Universal School Breakfast and Lunch

#3. Local Control over Cell Phone Policy

#4. Continued work on safe practices for punishment, removal and discipline of students

#5. Additional Funding for Special Education curriculum and programs in the classroom.

#6. The NASB opposes any effort to dilute or remove the Federal Department of Education, it's policies, procedures and benefits that it provides to the school districts



# 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## Major Themes:

- Accountability in Education
- Early Childhood Literacy
- Addressing Teacher Shortages (Licensure, Hard-to-Fill Positions, Retainment)
- Libraries, Students with IEPs, Open Enrollment
- Fiscal Environment → Flat Funding, Falling Enrollment

## Notable Bills

- SB460 Bipartisan Education Omnibus Bill- Accountability in Education
- AB224 Rural School Funding One Shot
- SB444 Cell Phone Policy Bill
- AB305 Student Trustee Bill (Died)

# 2026 FEDERAL ADVOCACY LANDSCAPE

Federal Lobbying Days – February 2026

## Major Topics

- SPED Funding (40% by 50) IDEA's 50th anniversary
- FY26 Title I & Perkins Career and Technical Education
- Dismantling of the Department of Education and Reallocation of Oversight and Services
- Secure Rural Schools Act Reauthorization



# Federal Impacts in School Services

**Universal School Breakfast and Lunch → Ended Following COVID19 Funds**

**Relocation of Department of Education Grants → Federal Reorganization**

- Grant guideline uncertainty

**Uncertainty with Medicaid Reimbursements for Student Services**

**Possible Outcomes:**

- Reduce or lay off health staff, including school nurses, speech-language pathologists, and occupational therapists;
- Cutting mental and behavioral health services, which are largely funded through Medicaid reimbursements.

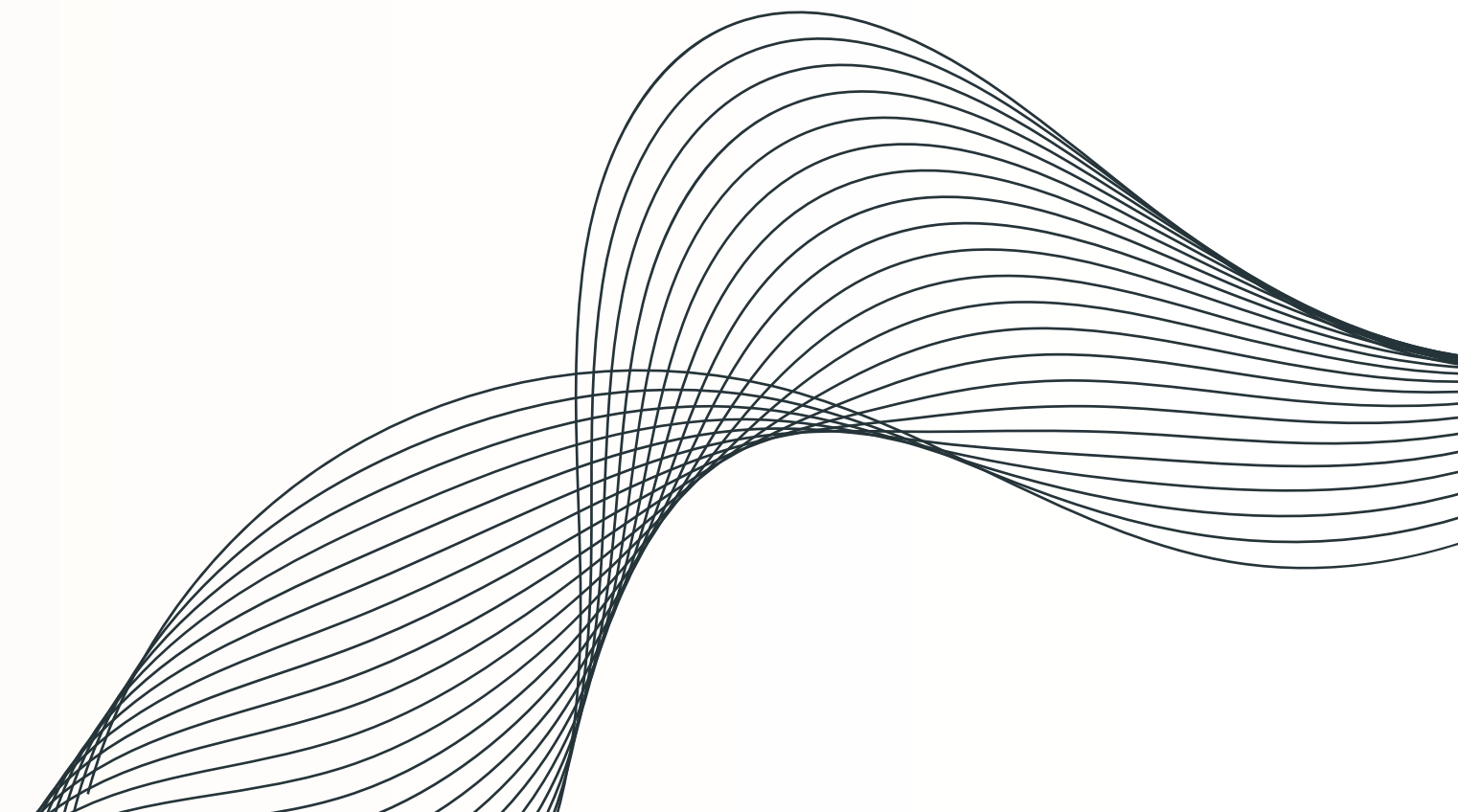
# Current Financial Challenges for Nevada School Districts

Nevada school districts are extremely appreciative of the record high funding from the 2023 Legislative Session. The relatively flat funding from last session (2025 Session) has created issues.

Rising expenditures have outpaced funding:

- Significant increase in PERS contribution rate.
- Rising Insurance costs.
- Salary step and related benefits increases each year.
- Other inflationary cost increases.

To address these issues, districts are examining consolidating schools, eliminating programs, and spending down reserves.





# Pupil Centered Funding Plan Considerations

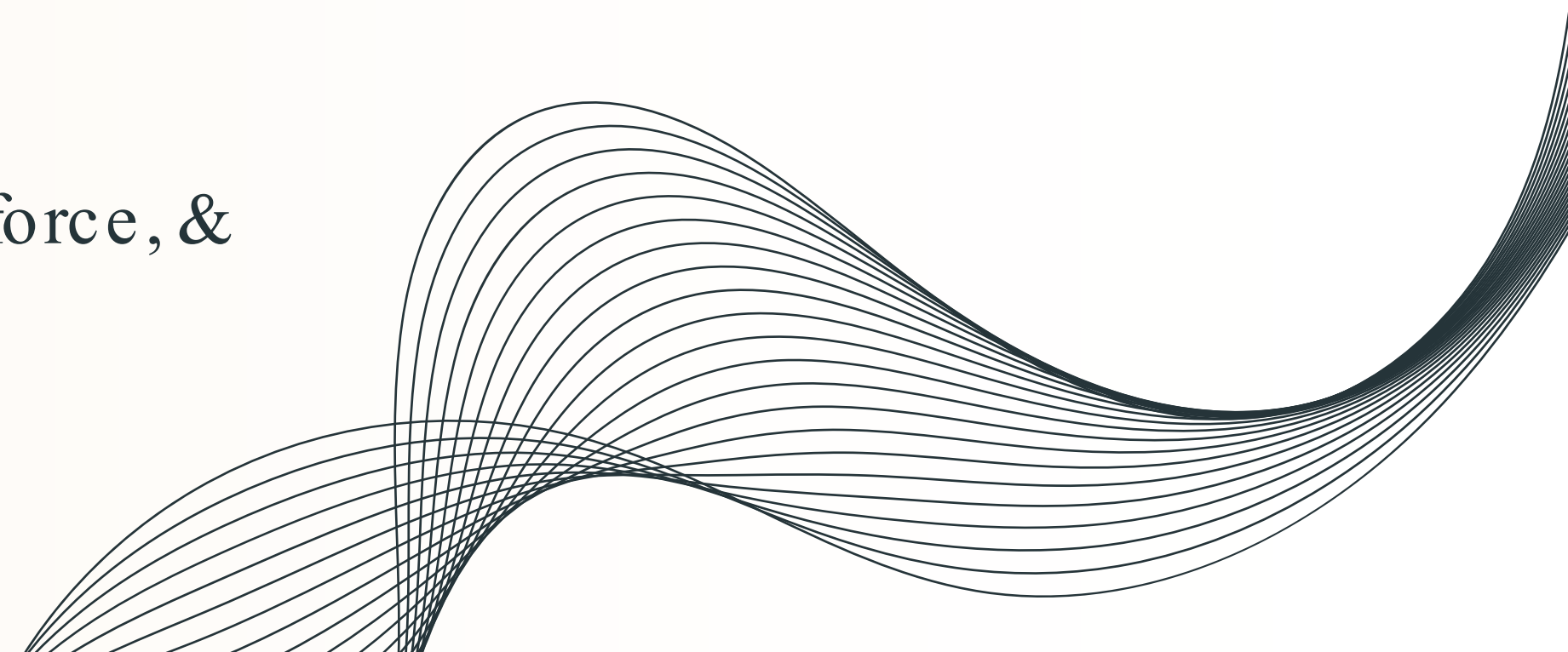
The modernization of the school funding model resulting in the Pupil Centered Funding Plan was needed. The Commission on School Funding was a well thought out addition to the new funding model to address model issues.

Two funding issues in the model that are being studied:

- Quarterly enrollment revenue adjustments create issues with annual employment contracts when revenues decline.
- Increased Hold Harmless percentages takes away needed safety nets for school districts.

# 2026-2027 POTENTIAL AREAS OF POLICY INTEREST

- Falling Enrollment
- Rural School Funding - a Permanent Pathway in Nevada
- Survey of What Parents Want from Public Schools?
  - What will keep them enrolled?
    - Use this to identify funding priorities
- CTE and Title 1 Supports and Funding
- AI in K-12 Education
- Mental Health of Students: Supports, Workforce, & Funding



# 2026 NASB & LEGISLATIVE ENGAGEMENT

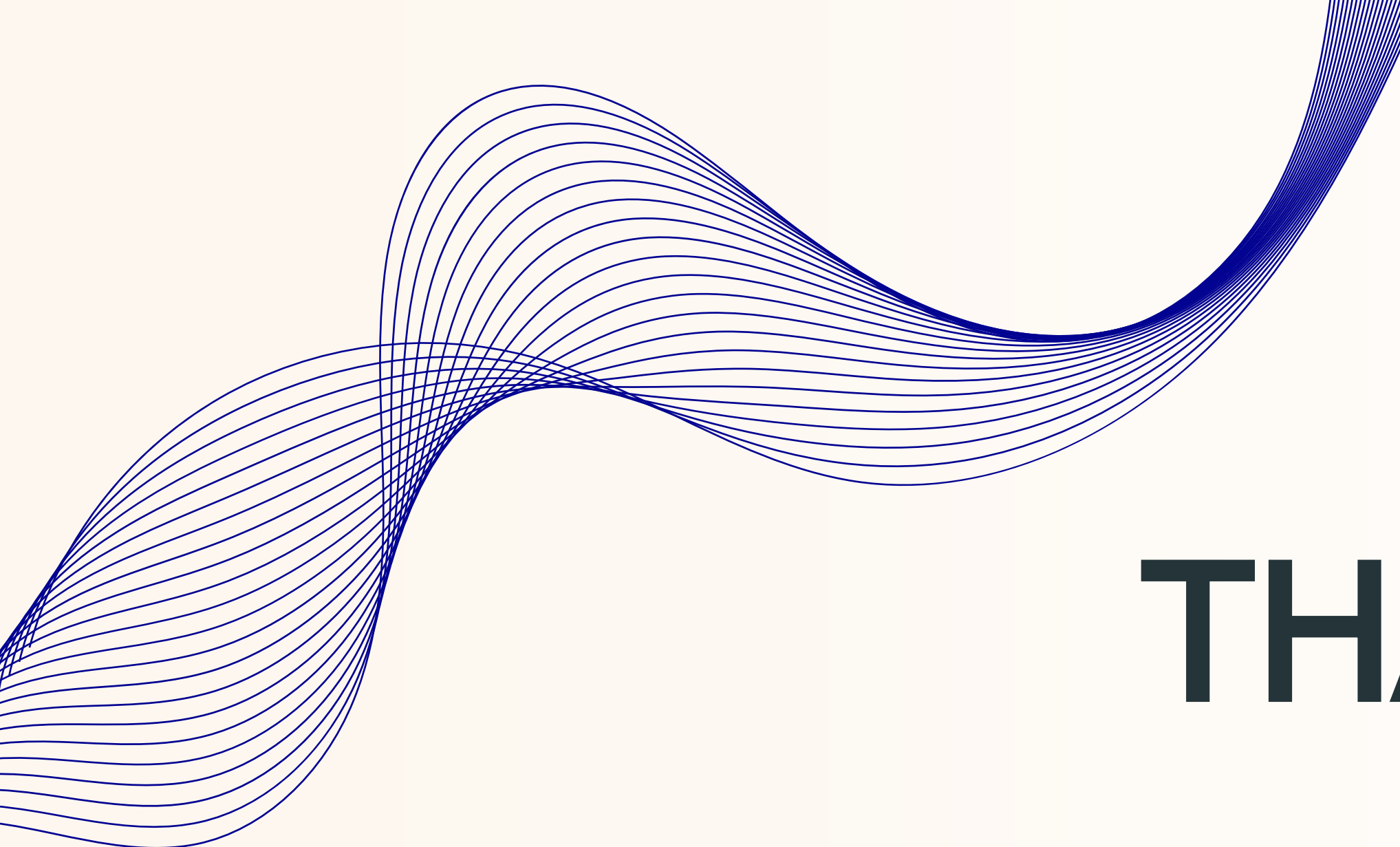
Hosting Two Major Events:

March 21, 2026 – Breakfast with Legislators and School Board Trustees  
N. Nevada (Reno)

April 25, 2026 – Breakfast with Legislators and School Board Trustees  
S. Nevada (Vegas)

*Goal*

Meet your Trustee/Meet your Legislator before NASB  
Lobbying Day 2027



# THANK YOU

Now Available for  
Questions

