

Dr. Lori Navarrete: 2/28/14 - Public Comment at that the Legislative Counsel Bureau, English Language Learner Task Force on K-12 Funding, Grant Sawyer Building, Las Vegas

Hello,

For the record, my name is Lori Navarrete. I am a professor of education at Nevada State College. I have been working closely with CCSD for several years to offer TESL endorsement programs to CCSD teachers. At NSC, all of our elementary students are required to take the 12 TESL credits so they graduate with an elementary degree and a TESL endorsement. Also, I am here as a member two community organizations, LV Mujeres and the Latino Leaders Coalition Education Committee, both who advocate for Latino issues related to education and social services. Currently, I am teaching two TESL courses at Global HS, the only newcomer HS in CCSD. As well, I offer college readiness workshops for Latino parents in various high schools. The education of our ELLs one of the greatest concerns in each of these bodies.

For the first time in my 12 years here in Las Vegas, I feel that there is finally momentum for funding the education of ELLs in this state. It is long overdue. The recent funding for Zoom schools and the current work of the English Mastery Council coupled with the institutions of higher education examining way to enhance our TESL courses programs in order to provide our teachers the best research and practices for teaching English learners. It is important to keep this momentum going in order to sustain current successful programs and develop and implement new initiatives.

Given the various ways in which I work with and advocate for the ELL population, I clearly see the need to increase funding for ELL education at many different levels –

- to provide all schools the benefits afforded to Zoom schools,
- to offer ongoing TESL PD for practicing teachers, to sustain and increase remediation and tutoring programs for ELLs,
- to increase the number of ELL coaches in all schools, to increase the number of TESL endorsed CCSD teachers,
- to increase all-day kindergarten for all students,

Exhibit L

- To examine new ways to effectively reach and teach the long term ELLs, which is the largest and hardest ELL group in which to facilitate the development of academic language in English; and
- to increase the number of dual language schools (a model for serving ELLs with specific profiles)

The effective instruction of ELLs now is going to have a huge impact on our graduation rate, college going rate, lowering the cycle poverty in NV, and in turn, will greatly impact our overall economy and the quality of life for NV citizens. As well, the parents of students English learners want their children to learn English. They want their children to graduate from HS and go to college. They are counting on our education system to educate their children. I ask you to please sustain and increase the funding for ELLs in this state and keep this momentum going.