

# Education through Accountability, Transparency, and Efficiency (EDUCATE) Act

Nevada Senate Majority Leader  
**NICOLE CANNIZZARO**

In November 2023, Senate Majority Leader Nicole Cannizzaro committed to Nevadans that she would convene advocates for public education to craft policy and governance changes for Nevada's education system. The Education through Accountability, Transparency, and Efficiency (EDUCATE) Act is the product of that process and includes recommendations from current and former school district leaders, educators and educator organizations, community members, and policy experts. This bill will help facilitate a broad-based conversation about accountability in the education system during the 2025 session.

## A QUALIFIED TEACHER IN EVERY CLASSROOM, GREAT STAFF IN EVERY SCHOOL

- + Fund the continuation of nearly 20% raises for educators, support professionals, and school resource officers passed as part of the Nevada Legislature's historic 2023 education budget
- + Address Nevada's chronic shortage of licensed educators and support staff through the Nevada Institute on Teaching and Educator Preparation (NITEP) and the statewide expansion of highly successful Alternative Routes to Licensure (ARL) and Paraprofessional Pathways Project (PPP) programs
- + Establish the Nevada Commission on Educator Recruitment and Retention that will replace the Nevada Department of Education's advisory task force and identify long-term strategies to address educator workforce pipelines

## IMPROVING STUDENT OUTCOMES

- + Require the State Board of Education (SBOE) to develop School Academic Achievement Plans for elementary schools that will include three-year academic, staffing, and remediation goals and plans aimed at advancing student achievement
- + Require the Department of Education to develop plans for schools to reduce the number of educators' non-instructional time to 2% or less of the total number of annual minutes of student attendance
- + Ensure that each public school provides all students frequent, regular access to qualified school counselors
- + Establish administrator-to-teacher staffing ratios, require that all classroom-based positions in elementary schools be filled prior to the staffing of non-classroom-based positions, and limit circumstances where an elementary school is allowed to exceed existing statutory limitations on class size
- + Reform the process by which evaluations are conducted to more effectively gauge the efficacy of educators

## GIVING KIDS A HEAD START

- + Expand Nevada's existing pre-K programs to create universal pre-K for all four-year-olds

## ACCOUNTABILITY FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC DOLLARS

### Public Schools:

- + Establish a School District Oversight Board, a joint legislative and executive branch committee that will have new authority to oversee school districts and take remedial action if districts fail to meet certain obligations under Nevada law
- + Mandate minimum professional qualifications for school districts when hiring superintendents and chief financial officers
- + Grant voting rights to appointed members of the Clark County School District Board of Trustees

### Charter Schools:

- + Require the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) to conduct more rigorous reviews of financial plans and performance of charter schools, and give local educational authorities a greater voice in the approval of charter applications
- + Reform the membership of the SPCSA to ensure members have professional expertise in a variety of management and operational practices relevant to charter schools
- + Require all teachers who provide instruction at a charter school to hold a license or endorsement from the Nevada Department of Education within five years

### Opportunity Scholarships:

- + Ensure that all private schools receiving public funds are subject to the same math, science, and English language assessment requirements as traditional public schools
- + Mandate the collection and reporting by schools of demographic and enrollment information of Opportunity Scholarship recipients

## PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

- + Eliminate burdensome, redundant, and unnecessary quarterly reporting requirements for some programs when data is available from other public sources. Annual reporting requirements would remain in place
- + Charge the Commission on School Funding with several new study areas and provide the Commission with a bill draft request that will enable further implementation of needed funding, efficiency, and accountability measures to improve educator retention and student outcomes in Nevada's public schools



Paid for and Authorized by the Committee to Elect Nicole Cannizzaro.

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