

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 41–
Committee on Finance

FILE NUMBER.....

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Providing the items for consideration by the Superintendent of Public Instruction in compiling the biennial budgetary request for the State Distributive School Account.

WHEREAS, Section 2 of Article 11 of the Constitution of the State of Nevada requires the Legislature to provide for a uniform system of common schools; and

WHEREAS, Section 6 of Article 11 of the Constitution of the State of Nevada requires the Legislature to provide for the support and maintenance of the common schools by direct legislative appropriation from the General Fund; and

WHEREAS, An effective public school system which produces active and informed residents is essential to the development of an educated workforce to serve the economy of the State of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, The Nevada Association of School Superintendents and the Nevada Association of School Boards have worked cooperatively to propose a long-term vision for public education, commonly referred to as “iNVEST,” in an effort to improve the academic achievement of pupils enrolled in elementary and secondary schools in this state; and

WHEREAS, The Legislature believes that the elements of the iNVEST proposal provide a sound blueprint when the Legislature considers methods to improve the academic achievement of pupils; and

WHEREAS, The Legislature recognizes it is important that school districts:

1. Are provided with basic support to the extent practicable and sufficient to ensure the effectiveness of the public schools, which to the extent practicable includes the inflationary costs for nonsalaried expenditures;
2. Have funding for books, supplies and equipment to the extent practicable and sufficient to ensure the effectiveness of the public schools;
3. Have funding for programs designed for pupils who have limited proficiency in the English language to the extent practicable and sufficient to ensure the effectiveness of the public schools; and
4. Maintain an ending fund balance to the extent practicable and sufficient to meet the needs of the public schools; and

WHEREAS, The Legislature recognizes the importance for school districts to attract and retain a qualified workforce, which includes

the provision of cost-of-living adjustments, adequate health benefits for employees and adequate compensation for teachers who provide instruction in high impact and special need areas; and

WHEREAS, The Legislature recognizes that there are a variety of meritorious ways that the educational system can assist pupils to meet the demands of rigorous academic standards, including, without limitation, increasing the instructional time for pupils by adding additional days to the school year, providing full-day kindergarten to the extent practicable, especially for children who are at risk, and providing summer school, after-school programs and tutorial programs for pupils who need additional assistance; and

WHEREAS, The opportunities available to Nevada's pupils would be enhanced by the provision of career and technical educational courses, the enhancement of classroom discipline and the maintenance of class-size reduction; and

WHEREAS, It is the intended goal of the Nevada Legislature to work in partnership with the State Board of Education, the Governor, the Nevada Association of School Superintendents, the Nevada Association of School Boards and other such dedicated organizations to continue to develop and carry out educational strategies that are designed to improve the academic achievement of pupils enrolled in the public elementary and secondary schools in this state, including, without limitation, methods to increase the financial support for public schools; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That, the Superintendent of Public Instruction may compile the biennial budgetary request for the State Distributive School Account prepared by the Department of Education and, in compiling the request, may take into account, without limitation, the following items:

1. The projected enrollment of pupils for each school district and for the school districts as a whole;
2. The projected costs of salaries and benefits for existing and newly hired teachers, and for other school district employees, including, without limitation, the cost of programs of enhanced compensation and the cost of living adjustments recommended by the Superintendent of Public Instruction;
3. The projected costs of supplies, equipment, services, fuel and utilities based upon such published indices, reports and research as the Superintendent of Public Instruction considers are credible and reliable regarding those costs to schools;
4. The projected cost of existing and proposed educational programs, including, without limitation, enhancements to existing programs that are not included in the per pupil basic support guarantee; and

5. The revenue that is anticipated to be available for the general operations of school districts other than money available from the State General Fund; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Superintendent of Public Instruction may include a compilation of the items with the biennial budgetary request for the State Distributive School Account prepared by the Department of Education; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Superintendent of Public Instruction.