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Proposed Bill to Prevent Disruptive Mid-Year Budget Cuts

Plan would stabilize school budgets after the school year starts

Overview: As elected officials, employee groups, and the community come together to discuss future funding for public schools, the Clark County School District (CCSD) is proposing a change to the timing of the state budget development process to avoid disruptive fall budget adjustments.

Like school districts around the country and the state, CCSD is adjusting to declining student enrollment due to lower birth rates and more competition. With estimates that student enrollment could decrease by more than 40,000 students over the next five years, CCSD leaders are working to make legislative changes to limit the impact of declining enrollment on students and employees as much as possible.

In August 2026, the CCSD Board of School Trustees authorized CCSD to seek a bill in the 2027 Legislature to change the process by which Nevada funds public schools and to prevent mid-year budget cuts.

This proposal is strictly to make changes to the budget process to stabilize school budgets. It would determine state funding based on the previous year's actual student count. CCSD's goal is to mitigate the effects of statewide declines in student enrollment on school districts, teachers, and students, and to prevent major budget reductions in the fall.

What would this proposed bill do for schools?

- **Stable learning environments for students:** For decades, CCSD has been required to relocate students and staff weeks after the school year begins.
- **More stable funding for budget planning:** Under this plan, Districts will receive funding based on the student count as of October 1 of the previous year or the three-year enrollment average, whichever is higher. Student enrollment typically fluctuates throughout the school year.
- **Reduction of mid-year funding cuts:** Under this bill, schools could set budgets and hire staff before the school year starts, without fear of unexpected mid-year budget cuts. Teachers and students can feel secure that their classrooms will not change after the school year starts.

Why does CCSD adjust budgets each fall?

Under current law, school districts prepare draft budgets for each school year, including a tentative budget (April 15), a final budget (June 8) based on estimated student enrollment, and an amended budget (January 1) based on actual student enrollment.

After school starts, the state recalculates funding based on actual quarterly enrollment. If enrollment falls below estimates, CCSD must make budget adjustments after the school year is already underway, resulting in disruptive cuts to staff, classrooms, and student programs.

This was not as much of a problem when Nevada school districts were growing rapidly. In fact, many schools would add teachers each Fall. In a time when school districts are seeing declining enrollment, this is creating more disruptions for students and staff.

What are the next steps?

CCSD has submitted this as one of its two bill draft requests for the 2027 Legislative Session. CCSD anticipates receiving language from the bill draft request in the coming weeks and will keep the community posted on the status of this bill.