

UNDERSTANDING THE PUPIL-CENTERED FUNDING PLAN

What You Need to Know About Nevada's New Education Funding Formula

A new funding formula that puts students first has landed in Nevada: The Pupil-Centered Funding Plan (PCFP). Replacing the 50-year-old Nevada Plan, the PCFP prioritizes equity, transparency, and achievement for all Nevada students. Read on to learn how the new plan works, and what it means for Nevadans in the education system.



EQUITY

Giving all students access to the resources needed to succeed.



TRANSPARENCY

Providing a clear understanding to the public of how resources are allocated and why.



ACCOUNTABILITY

Showing how funding is used to improve student outcomes for all.



FLEXIBILITY

Allowing schools to make targeted decisions about resource allocation according to student needs.

Finally, An Education Plan for Every Student

Nevada's new education funding formula is built with equity, transparency and achievement in mind. The plan seeks to provide all students with an adequate base level of resources, and to provide greater support to those in need.

About Insulated Education Accounts

The following accounts will continue to be distributed as distinct programs:

- **Federal grants requiring a maintenance of effort** (e.g., Special Education)
- **Pre-Kindergarten**
- **Adult Education**
- **TeachNV Scholarship**



FUNDING FORMULA OUTLINE

Nevada's education revenues have traditionally funded over 80 education programs and grants. To support transparency, the funds are now combined into the State Education Fund and redistributed through the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan

STATE ADMINISTRATION

Funding allocated to the Nevada Department of Education to support the administration of Statewide Educational programs.

SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Funding allocated to districts for food services, transportation and similar operations deemed to be appropriate by the legislature.

PER-PUPIL BASE FUNDING

Per-pupil funding guaranteed to every student—regardless of what school they attend—distributed equitably on the basis of estimated attendance, zone enrollment, cost of living, labor and geography.

WEIGHTED FUNDING

Funding above and beyond the adjusted per-pupil base to meet the distinct needs of each student identified as an English learner, at-risk, or Gifted and Talented, which is provided to the district, charter and university school of enrollment.

The Nevada Commission on School Funding: An Overview

The PCFP includes the creation of an 11 member Commission on School Funding. This group provides recommendations to the Governor and legislature for K-12 funding. Its duties include:

- **Recommending cost adjustments** for each county as well as necessarily small schools and small districts.
- **Reviewing per-pupil funding** amounts and recommending changes to create an optimal level of funding for public schools in Nevada.
- When recommending a change that would require more money to implement than was appropriated in the prior two years, **identifying methods to fund** the recommendation within ten years.
- **Reviewing laws and regulations related to education** and make recommendations for changes that would improve the of public education in Nevada.
- **Providing guidance, monitoring, and making recommendations** to improve the implementation of the PCFP by the Nevada Department of Education and school districts.

The Commission submitted recommendations to the Governor and Legislature for changes determined to be necessary for the successful implementation of the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan. The full [recommendations](#) can be reviewed on the [Commission’s website](#), but the most notable recommendations are summarized below:

- **Re-defining at risk students.** The Commission recommended that the State Board of Education update a new definition of “at-risk” students that goes beyond free-or-reduced-price lunch eligibility to include a broader set of social and academic factors that hamper student progress toward graduation.
- **Remove special education from the weighted funding.** Due to the federal requirement that State and local education agencies maintain support for each student receiving special education services each year, the Commission recommended insulating special education funding in a separate account. This will allow local education agencies to appropriately serve students in accordance with their Individualized Education Plans (IEPs).
- **Promote flexibility and alignment in reporting.** The Commission recommended removing specific reporting deadlines and shifting toward flexible terminology (e.g. quarterly, annually) as well as consolidating reports on staffing data to increase transparency, prevent redundancies, and minimize extra effort.
- **Expand the “Hold Harmless” principle.** The Pupil-Centered Funding Plan includes the Legislature’s intent to transition to the PCFP without causing an unexpected loss of revenue to any school district. The Commission recommended that this protection be extended to public charter schools and university schools for profoundly gifted pupils to prevent unexpected hardship for any organization supporting Nevada’s students.



OPTIMAL

FUNDING

The Commission on School Funding has defined optimal funding in Nevada is that which enables the state's schools and districts to uniformly and equitably provide resources and services designed to produce exemplary student performance on par with the nation's best. Optimal funding is a strategic investment to intensify the use of effective practice recommendations contained in the State Improvement Plan, leading to exceptional achievement for all Nevada students. The progression from current funding levels to optimal funding is as follows:

Restore and Maintain: Sufficient to bring funding to previous baseline level.

Adequate: Sufficient for all students to meet state standards and statutory requirements.

Optimal: Sufficient for strategic investment in practices and resources aligned with Nevada's 5-year renewable strategic plan that lead—for all students—to exemplary student achievement on par with the nation's best.

For more information regarding the Commission on School Funding or the implementation of Senate Bill 543 (PCFP), visit the Commission's website or contact Commission secretary:

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