

Subject: Urgent Need for Increased RPDP Funding: Budget #2618

Dear [Recipient's Name],

As the Chair, on behalf of the Statewide Council for the Coordination of the Regional Training Programs, established under NRS 391A.130, we are reaching out specifically regarding the critical funding challenges affecting long-term planning and the sustainability of the regional professional development programs (RPDPs).

Over the past two decades, Nevada's Regional Professional Development Programs (RPDPs) in the South, Northeast, and Northwest have suffered from chronic underfunding. For example, the Southern RPDP has seen its staff decline from over 40 full-time employees a decade ago to just 17 today—despite serving over 18,000 teachers. The Northeast and Northwest RPDPs, while serving fewer educators, must cover vast geographical regions and diverse districts with similarly strained resources, and have experienced similar reductions in staffing over the years.

The directors of the RPDP requested an enhancement for FY 26-27 to cover the increased cost of salaries and benefits negotiated by our respective, designated fiscal agents in the previous biennium, which they are legally obligated to meet, and which has significantly impacted their ability to provide services to our regional's education leaders and educators.

As Chair of the Statewide Council, I strongly urge you to approve this enhancement request. The Council unanimously supports increasing the RPDP budgets. As a rural superintendent, I cannot overstate the importance of RPDPs in supporting educators and leaders, which requires that the RPDPs be adequately funded. ***In 2023-2024, RPDP staff provided support for 764 leaders, 8,126 educators, and 263 paraprofessionals; many of those individuals returned for additional support, thus, the overall number of education personnel receiving support was 21,689.***

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We appreciate your support in sustaining high-quality professional development for Nevada's educators.

Sincerely,

Clayton Anderson, *Chair*, Statewide Council for the Coordination of the RPDPs

Pam Teel, Erin Phillips, Joe Girdner, Denise Trakas & Jennifer Black, *Members*

Jennese Black, *NDE Liaison*; Shawna Jessen, *NDE Lead*