

PRESENTATION TO THE COMMITTEE FOR THE STUDY OF A NEW METHOD FOR FUNDING PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN NEVADA

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Relevant Work Experience

- APA has 30 years of experience in designing and carrying out education finance and policy studies
- We have worked in all 50 states
- We are experienced in evaluating and designing formulas that address specific student and district needs. Studies include Maryland, Pennsylvania, Louisiana, Mississippi and New Jersey
- Over the past decade we have worked with dozens of states on analyzing and redesigning their state funding formulas

Relevant Work Experience

- We have worked in a wide range of states in terms of size, student populations and fiscal capacity
- Our past work with Nevada gives us a unique understanding of its school finance system and context
- We understand how to work with policy makers to provide reports that are clear, concise and actionable
- Research team offers more than 80 years of combined state school finance experience

Relevant Work Experience

- Mark Fermanich has worked with APA on studies in Colorado, North Carolina and Minnesota
 - Has more than 20 years of school finance experience, including legislative and district level experience
 - Worked on school finance formula studies in nearly a dozen states
 - Extensive experience working with state and district education staff and databases

Nevada Context

- Nevada schools serve over 437,000 students
- The state's 17 districts range in size from fewer than 100 students to over 300,000 students
- Free/Reduced price lunch eligibility ranges from less than 10% to nearly 70%
- LEP percentages range from 0% to nearly 20%
- Special Education percentages range from less than 10% to more than 20%
- Nevada Plan, adopted in 1967, is primary method for allocating education funds

Sources: NCES and Nevada Department of Education

APA's Work Plan

- Step 1: Review funding formulas of all 50 states, including their:
 - Basic structure
 - Components addressing student needs including: students with disabilities, ELL, at-risk students, other student adjustments
 - Components addressing district characteristics including: small remote schools and other district adjustments
 - All funding sources
 - Year system was last overhauled

APA's Work Plan

- Step 2: Identify five comparable state's to provide a more in-depth comparison with the Nevada Plan:
 - We will look at state characteristics such as size, number of districts, and student characteristics to select the comparison states
 - The sample will include at least three states that adjust for small, remote schools. If original sample does not include three states with small school adjustments, additional states will be added until three states with this type of adjustment are identified
 - Confirm selections with Nevada staff

APA's Work Plan

- Step 3: Identify best practices for formula components based on our analysis of the state reviews and an extensive literature review
 - Need to understand not just what different states do but what seems to be most effective and efficient in targeting the needs of students and districts
- Step 4: Conduct focus groups across the state to understand from different perspectives how the Nevada Plan functions in practice

APA's Work Plan

- Step 5: Develop recommendations based on the results of our analyses
- Step 6: Create a statewide database and model to estimate the impacts of our recommendations on districts and the state

Questions?