



The Nevada Policy Research Institute

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NPRI analyst: Governor's education reform proposals a win-win for Nevada

An education policy analyst with the Nevada Policy Research Institute today praised a new package of education reforms proposed by Gov. Jim Gibbons. The package includes increased autonomy for local school districts and the creation of a school-voucher program. It also would eliminate laws requiring local government and school district collective bargaining agreements, full-day kindergarten programs and class-size reduction programs.

"Today is a day of hope for Nevada's children thanks to the governor's proposed education reforms," said NPRI analyst Patrick R. Gibbons. "For 50 years, Nevada education policy has misallocated spending to create union jobs, rather than educate our children. The results speak for themselves. While Nevada's inflation-adjusted, per-pupil spending has nearly tripled over the past 50 years, student performance has been stagnant.

"If enacted, Gov. Gibbons' proposals would amount to a win-win both for Nevada's families, particularly those with low incomes, and for the state," he added. "Under school-choice programs, parents have the freedom to remove their children from failing schools and select one that better fits each child's unique needs and abilities. Additionally, all Nevadans would benefit by dropping budget-busting programs that fail to improve student achievement, such as collective bargaining, full-day kindergarten and class-size reduction."

The NPRI analyst also noted that 15 states and Washington, D.C., currently have school-choice programs that serve more than 800,000 students through vouchers or tax credits. He added that these programs have combined to save taxpayers more than \$400 million and, more importantly, have consistently been found to have a statistically significant positive impact on educational achievement. Empirical evidence also has consistently shown that vouchers and tax credits improve the quality of traditional public schools as well, he said.

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