

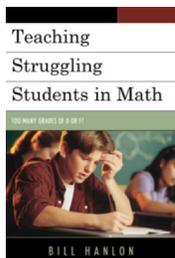
## Nevada Public Education



### *Governor Not Treating Students Fairly Weighted Formula Needed*

*Bill Hanlon*

Dear Legislator:



All one has to do is follow the money to find out why Nevada's ranking has nosedived to dead last in the nation. Rather than focusing on students' classroom experiences learning to read and write or learning about math, science, and social studies, the Governor, State Board, and State Superintendent focus on their own resumes.

The Governor, former and current state superintendents Dale Erquiaga and Steve Canavero, and Elaine Wynn's assumption is all poor students, students in need of extra help, go to the same schools. That assumption is false. Therefore, their conclusion is faulty. Students living in poverty go to almost all our schools. Under this administration, students not attending the "**chosen**" schools don't get the assistance they need. And, using that as the basis of their argument for the Governor's "designer" programs places students who have real needs, not at those schools, at a serious disadvantage.

Students in public schools are struggling because the state is diverting funding to politicized designer programs and special interest groups. The money siphoned from public education is in the hundreds of millions of dollars and places students in a position where their teachers are not able to do their job right the first time resulting in increased remediation needs.

The Governor, State Superintendent Canavero and Elaine Wynn claim, because of last session's tax increase, that school districts have the funds to do their jobs. That's just not true, they are deliberately misleading the public about their budgets and programs. Clark, Washoe and other districts are rightfully crying foul. The state is clearly not funding the basics.

Because of the Governor’s priorities, his so-called *signature* programs, **we have a teacher shortage, an inability to attract, recruit and retain teachers, class sizes of 40 or more in algebra classes, students with either no textbooks or textbooks that are not aligned with the new standards, and tests that are not aligned with national tests such as the ACT and SAT and clearly not transparent like the AP, ACT, SAT, LSAT, GMAT civil service or drivers’ license exams and little in the form of professional development.** The Governor cut PD when the new math and ELA standards were implemented, then complained about student results! And after last session, none of the 5 southern districts got science funding in the first year. Where is their accountability?

Where is the money going? The Governor’s designer programs are funded categorically. Categorical funding means that local elected school trustees do not have a say how or where these funds are spent.

Zoom Schools	\$142,000,000.00
Victory Schools	80,000,000.00
ESA	60,000,000.00
GTLF	9,000,000.00
Read by Grade 3	25,000,000.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$316,000,000.00</b>

Programs are only as good as the teachers implementing them.

The state’s habit of confusing activity with achievement has been, and continues to be, detrimental to our students’ education.

The funding, over \$300M, for all these programs should be redirected to a *weighted* formula so all students are receiving the benefit of our tax dollars and decisions are made at the local level.

The Governor’s claim that schools and districts have the funds to do their jobs successfully is deliberately misleading – a lie.

Prior to their budget restrictions and categorical funding for “his” programs, *Clark County was recognized as the fastest improving district in the nation because the local superintendents concentrated on students’ experiences learning in the classroom.* Under this Governor’s leadership, the state’s educational ranking has fallen to dead last in the nation because local school districts do not have the flexibility to ensure all of our students are being treated equitably and they fund their friends instead of teachers.

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