

**NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS  
RESOLUTION OPPOSING BUDGET REDUCTIONS  
AS REQUESTED BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEVADA**

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of the State of Nevada has requested 4.5% in budget reductions in State General Fund appropriations for the 2007-2009 Biennium, requiring a 4.5% reduction to K-12 public education budgets, due to shortfalls in overall State projected revenues; and

**WHEREAS**, as elected officials, it is the responsibility of school board members to act upon budget cuts; and

**WHEREAS**, the impact of these budget reductions statewide for K-12 public education is reported to be approximately \$96 million over the 2007-2009 Biennium, with each school district's portion not yet known; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2007 Session of the Nevada Legislature dedicated more than 120 days of careful discussion, debate, and consideration in determining the per pupil guaranteed support for the next Biennium, and the Governor of the State of Nevada has demanded budget reductions from K-12 public education in fewer than 30 days; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors of the Nevada Association of School Boards opposes any reduction to the per pupil guaranteed support as established by the 2007 Session of the Nevada Legislature and approved by the Governor; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors of the Nevada Association of School Boards desires to avoid any budget reductions for the State's seventeen school districts that could adversely impact classroom sizes or services, reduce employee salaries and benefits, student achievement, or create a reduction in workforce; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors of the Nevada Association of School Boards opposes any reduction of resources that would have a negative impact on a school climate which encourages and fosters achievement, academics, and the active participation of both students and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, based upon previous experience from cuts in the 1990s and 2000-2001, Nevada's seventeen school districts seldom, if ever, recover from such reductions in basic support, which negatively impact students, staff, and the system for decades; and

**WHEREAS**, Nevada's per-pupil funding is close to the bottom on all national lists published; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2005 Session of the Nevada Legislature through A.C.R. 10 called for an interim study on the adequacy of the system of school finance in Nevada to be conducted by a qualified, independent, nationally recognized consultant, and *Estimating the Cost of an Adequate Education in Nevada* was presented to the Legislative Committee on School Financing Adequacy in August 2006 by Augenblick, Palaich and Associates, Inc., and included the finding that Nevada's K-12 public education was then underfunded by \$1.3 billion; and

**WHEREAS**, the Nevada Association of School Boards, the Nevada Association of School Superintendents, and Nevada's seventeen school boards have unanimously endorsed

and supported iNVEST, a funding and accountability proposal presented to the 2003, 2005, and 2007 Sessions of the Nevada Legislature, and establishing a roadmap for improving student achievement; and

**WHEREAS**, none of Nevada's seventeen school districts can refuse to educate children or ignore their educational needs while other state agencies can increase fees and /or raise tuition or levy taxes, as K-12 public education cannot do;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS HEREBY:**

Request that savings to the State resulting from actual 2007-2009 Biennium student enrollments, estimated to be approximately \$90 million, be applied directly to the Governor's request for a 4.5% reduction in the State's budget for K-12 public education;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:**

The Board of Directors of the Nevada Association of School Boards encourages the State of Nevada to utilize its rainy day, capital construction, and other designated contingency funds to meet the budget shortfall before reducing K-12 public education funds;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:**

The Board of Directors of the Nevada Association of School Boards encourages the Nevada Legislature and Governor of the State of Nevada to establish consistent and appropriate revenue streams that will stabilize the funding of education in Nevada at sufficient levels to ensure the success and achievement of all of the State's children;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:**

If guaranteed per-pupil appropriations as established by the 2007 Session of the Nevada Legislature are reduced by the Governor's proposed cuts, then calculations for the next Biennium's guaranteed per-pupil support must be predicated on amounts enacted by the 2007 Nevada Legislature, prior to any reductions required by the State;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:**

The Department of Administration's Budget Office establish an account into which ALL funds collected in the name of K-12 public education will be held in reserve without reverting to the General Fund in order to offset any future shortfalls that may impact public education, thereby allowing the State to honor its per-pupil "guarantee" in all Biennia without imposing cuts on K-12 public education.

**ADOPTED** on this 12th day of January, 2008, in Las Vegas, Nevada, by the Board of Directors of the Nevada Association of School Boards.

***Sharla Hales***

Sharla Hales, President  
Nevada Association of School Boards