



Legislative Update

Assemblywoman Marilyn Kirkpatrick

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Assembly District 1

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I'm on the Web!

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Dear Friend,

With the new school year now underway, I am sending this email newsletter to update you on legislation passed recently to improve the quality of our public schools and the safety of our children.

I co-sponsored legislation to address concerns I have heard from so many constituents about the safety of children as they travel to or from school. SB 354 allows school police to issue tickets to drivers who are speeding through school zones or otherwise endangering our children.

We made some important strides forward this session: higher pay for teachers, additional career and technical education opportunities, high school reform, and funding for innovative learning programs and programs for gifted and talented students, disruptive students, parental involvement, and after-school tutoring.

There is, of course, much more that needs to be done to improve our schools.

Below is a summary of some of the education legislation we enacted this spring. You can get more information on each of the bills on the Nevada legislative website at www.leg.state.nv.us. Also, please email or call me any time with questions or suggestions.

If you would like to have your name removed so you do not receive my email newsletters in the future, please reply to this email.

Sincerely,

Marilyn



Education Legislation Enacted by the 2007 Legislature

Quality Teachers for Our Classrooms—We increased funding for teacher salaries by 2% for the 2007-2008 school year and 4% for the 2008-2009 school year. We also funded a “pay for performance” pilot project and continued and improved incentives for teachers who teach in hard-to-fill positions and at-risk schools. (AB 627 and AB 1 and AB 3 of the 23rd special session)

Preparing our students for today's workforce---The Legislature appropriated \$8 million for career and technical education programs (AB 627)

Helping our youngest students by expanding full-day kindergarten---While our goal is to make full-day kindergarten available to all children entering elementary school, we made strides this session by expanding full-day kindergarten to 63 more schools. (AB 627)

Helping our older students succeed—Too many of our high school students are dropping out or tuning out in our huge, impersonal high schools. We passed a high school reform bill to create smaller learning environments, to help students develop a career path with a curriculum meaningful to their goals and to ensure that high school students get more individualized attention from teachers, counselors and administrators. We also raised the age of compulsory attendance from 17 to 18. As a package, these proposals will help keep students in school and help truly prepare them for today's workforce. (AB 212)

Funding innovative programs with a track record of success---The Legislature appropriated funding for grants for innovative programs that really help students succeed, as well as funding for empowerment schools (AB 627, AB 185 and SB 238) We also provided funding for after-school programs, parental involvement, programs for disruptive students, programs for gifted and talented students, and more (AB 2 of the 23rd special session).