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Guinn Center Releases Fact Sheet on K-12 Education Finance

LAS VEGAS, NV— Nevada's system for funding K-12 education is complex and has not been substantially revised since it was created in 1967. In his 2015 State of the State Address, Governor Brian Sandoval recommended modernizing Nevada's school finance system by considering the needs of individual students. The Guinn Center for Policy Priorities has released *Nevada K-12 Education Finance* to help Legislators and the public understand the current school finance system and to identify issues for the Nevada Legislature to consider during the 2015 Session.

"Nevada's current school finance system has been criticized for providing inadequate funding and for not providing targeted funding to students with special needs," said Dr. Nancy E. Brune, Executive Director at the Guinn Center for Policy Priorities. "The Guinn Center aims to demystify the current education finance system, synthesize recent efforts to change the funding formula, and provide a roadmap for decision-makers." The Guinn Center for Policy Priorities will provide a briefing for Legislators on February 16, 2015 on its new report: *Nevada K-12 Education Finance*.

Issues for the Legislature to Consider Include:

1. Historic expenditures vs adequacy formula: Should Nevada move from a school financing system built on historic expenditures to a funding formula based on the cost to educate students?
2. Differential funding for special populations: Should the Nevada Plan be amended to include weights to account for the extra costs required to educate populations such as English Language Learners, low-income students, and special education students?
3. Categorical Funds: Should the State fold existing categorical programs into the main funding formula and make these monies flexible? Should the proposed weights be funded as categorical programs or should they be folded into the main funding formula? Should charter schools receive a direct allocation of State categorical funding to achieve parity with school districts?
4. Outside Tax Revenue: Should any tax revenues outside the Nevada Plan be incorporated into the funding guarantee? Should outside revenues be considered when calculating weights for special needs?
5. Enrollment: Should Nevada move from a single count day for enrollment to multiple count days?
6. Implementation: Given limited availability of state revenues, how should the State implement a new funding formula? Should it be phased in over time and should districts be held harmless?
7. Revenue: Should legislators increase revenue for K-12 education? What are the potential sources of increased revenues?

The Guinn Center for Policy Priorities is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, bipartisan, policy center focused on providing independent and data-driven analysis of critical policy issues facing Nevada and the Intermountain West. The Guinn Center engages policy-makers, experts, and the public with innovative, fact-based research and analysis to advance policy solutions and inform debate.

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