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### ***Guinn Center Releases Policy Brief on Improving Access to Funding for Charter Schools***

LAS VEGAS, NV— Nevada’s public charter school students are entitled to receive a proportionate share of school funding from Federal, State and local Sources. In practice, however, charter school students have experienced limited accessibility to State and Federal categorical funds compared to students at school districts. Charter schools also have limited access to facilities funding and must use their operations funding to meet these needs. The Guinn Center for Policy Priorities has released a new policy brief, *Nevada Charter Schools: Improving Access to Categorical and Facilities Funding*, which recommends ways the Legislature can improve access to funding for charter school students.

“The funding disparities between charter schools and school districts are striking,” said Dr. Nancy E. Brune, Executive Director of the Guinn Center for Policy Priorities. “The Legislature should implement structures that ensure proportionate funding such as categorical block grants. These grants could provide flexibility while also maintaining accountability and transparency.”

#### Recommendations include:

1. Create State categorical block grants to ensure charter school students receive a proportionate share of any State categorical funding outside the main funding formula. Allow funds to be used flexibly but also create accountability measures with performance goals and benchmarks.
2. Maximize access to Federal categorical funds by: (1) requiring sponsoring agencies to provide technical assistance to charter schools; (2) encouraging charter schools to place greater emphasis on collection of Free and Reduced Lunch eligibility data to maximize State and Federal funding for at-risk students; and (3) ensuring that sponsoring school districts provide charter schools with equal access to Federal grants administered at the district level.
3. Create new options for charter school facilities funding by: (1) exploring ways to mandate that school districts set aside a portion of new bond proceeds for charter schools, (2) creating a State funding mechanism for charter school facilities funding to avoid taking scarce local resources away from school districts; and (3) allowing facilities funds to be used for leasing costs at charter schools.

**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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