

## Overview: Teach Plus Nevada

The mission of Teach Plus is to empower excellent, experienced, and diverse teachers to take leadership over key policy and practice issues that affect their students' success. Teach Plus is guided by our Student Opportunity Mandate: All students should have the opportunity to achieve their potential in an education system defined by its commitment to equity, its responsiveness to individual needs, and its ability to prepare students for postsecondary success.

## The Challenge

Nevada's education funding is of paramount concern, as the state consistently ranks among the states with the lowest per-pupil funding in the nation. According to [Making the Grade 2022 report](#), Nevada ranked 47 out of 50 states and the District of Columbia in terms of per-pupil spending for the 2019-2020 school year. Limited [school funding](#) has far-reaching consequences for the quality of education that our students receive, impacting critical components such as access to resources and teacher salaries, as well as co-curricular and extracurricular activities. These consequences, however, are not exhaustive of the overall impact that low levels of funding have on the state's educational system.

*"Funding is the backbone of everything and must be adequate to meet the needs of students. The public also needs to feel good about where the funding is going; we need a comprehensive understanding. Our state must develop a long term vision, provide the resources and transparency to realize that vision, and show the community how students benefit."*

*Amanda Morgan, Executive Director, Educate Nevada Now*

## The Solution

Nevada's funding formula should be cost-driven, rather than budget-driven, and should be designed to meet the unique needs of each student. Nevada must take action to increase the funding level for education, make the new ["at-risk"](#) definition transparent and appropriate, and enable students who qualify for more than one weight within the funding formula to be funded with all weights. We recommend the following:

- **Increase the funding level without supplanting:** Nevada has a unique opportunity to increase the state's general fund contributions to education and stop supplanting the education budget.
- **Make the new "at-risk" definition transparent and appropriate:** Transparency in the definition and criteria for 'at-risk' will provide clarity and inform equity in resource distribution, ensuring that all students have an equitable opportunity to succeed.
- **Fund students who qualify for more than one weight within the funding formula with all weights:** Currently, students are only funded with a maximum of one weight, even if they qualify for multiple categories - each student's educational needs are unique and require different resources to be successful.

These challenges are significant, but they are not insurmountable. The state must prioritize its moral and ethical obligation to provide a fair and excellent education for each student and work towards eliminating disparities that currently exist in our education system. With implementation of these recommendations, Nevada can take a significant step towards building a more equitable and just education system that ensures every student has access to the resources they need to reach their full potential.