

JIM GIBBONS
Governor



One Hundred One North Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701
Office: (775) 684-5670
Fax No.: (775) 684-5683

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

April 6, 2007

Morse Arberry, Jr.
Assemblyman, Clark District 7
401 S. Carson Street
Carson City Nevada 89701-4747

RE: K-12 Funding

Dear Assemblyman Arberry:

The purpose of this letter is to reaffirm my commitment as governor of Nevada to the education of our state's children and to correct the misinformation in your letter on this issue. I find it unfortunate that you did not mention your concern in our private conversation held just recently. I am perfectly aware of the funding structure of the K-12 budget and believe the stark contrast that you articulate in your letter is a serious misrepresentation of the facts.

In accordance with my commitment to improving the academic achievement of our students, I have increased per pupil funding by 13 percent over the biennium. The 2005 Legislature approved \$4,486 in FY06 and \$4,696 in FY07. In my executive budget, I recommend \$5,122 in FY08, a 9.07% increase, and \$5,329 in FY09, a 4.04% increase. These numbers clearly put to rest the issue of my priorities with respect to education.

I wish to reiterate the fact that I have protected K-12 education from enhancement reductions. On March 28th, 2007, I requested that all other state government agencies and offices—including my own—reduce their requests for new funding in the next biennium by \$111,800,000. In this directive, I identified K-12 education funding as one of very few budget areas that would not be impacted by these reductions. I have also included in my budget \$81,000,000 in new state money to replace lost county school revenue.

As I articulated in my State of the State address, we must dedicate ourselves to raising standards, expectations and accountability in our classrooms from kindergarten through the 12th grade. My funding structure for K-12 education supports this dedication. I would again extend my administration's willingness to work constructively with you and your staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Gibbons".

Jim Gibbons
Governor

JAG/jlis