



Lightbulbs for Legislators and Education Day During the 2023 Children's Week at the Nevada Legislature

On March 13th, 2023, the Nevada Institute for Children's Research & Policy (NICRP), Nevada Afterschool Network (NAN), and Children's Advocacy Alliance (CAA) hosted the "Lightbulbs for Legislators" press conference during Education Day at the seventh biennial Children's Week at the Nevada Legislature. Legislators were provided with Nevada Afterschool Networks' "Impact of OST on Academic Achievement" factsheet, and "2023 Policy Brief" which outline the current state of out-of-school-time in Nevada and recommendations for supporters & policymakers.

Over 40 parents, children, and community advocates traveled on a charter bus from Las Vegas to Carson City, and many regional families and advocates attended, to promote the health, safety, and well-being of Nevada's children. The day began with a networking breakfast and the "State of Out-of-School-Time" presentation, in which children, youth, parents, and advocates expressed a great need for access to high-quality programs. Boys and Girls Club Truckee Meadows Youth of the Year, Christian Arroyo, shared that out-of-school-time programs have been essential to his safety and development. Parents Mary Beth Chamberlain and Ashley Tran both shared how out-of-school-time programs have helped their families during difficult times. NICRP Executive Director, Dr. Amanda Haboush-Deloye, spoke on her own experiences growing up in the Boys and Girls Club program and the importance of advocating for youth and families.

During the press conference, Majority Senate Leader, Senator Nicole Cannizzaro, shared her own journey through education and her commitment to ensuring youth and families have access to quality resources and programs. Strong Start Clark County Youth Mayor, Andrea Pierce, shared action steps that legislators can take to meet the needs of youth and families.

Participants attended an advocacy training and learned how to provide testimony and effectively communicate with their representatives. Children and families then led the "Bears on Parade" through the Legislative Building, stopping to meet with Nevada Representatives along the way. Families and advocates were invited to sit on the floor with their representatives, and in the gallery, during floor sessions. Attendants networked with local resources and tabling organizations throughout the day.

With 110 participants throughout the day, Lightbulbs for Legislators and Education Day during the 2023 Children's Week at the Nevada Legislature were great successes!

We would like to sincerely thank the following groups for participating in activities:

Children's Advocacy Alliance, Community Chest, Mobile Crisis, NV Division of Child and Family Services, Nevada Court Appointed Special Advocates, Nevada Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Nevada PEP, The Children's Cabinet, United Way of Southern NV, Boys Town, NV Department of Education Office of Early Learning and Development, Candelen, NV State Treasurer's Office, and Family to Family Connection.

