

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Nevada Revised Statutes 218.605

The following is a summary of recommendations adopted by the Legislative Committee on Education (LCE) at the August 16, 2012, meeting. The following bill draft requests (BDRs) will be submitted to the 77th Nevada Legislature.

PROPOSALS RELATING TO FEDERAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

1. Amend the statutes to remove the accountability provisions contained in Chapter 385 “State Administrative Organization,” of the *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) and require Nevada’s Department of Education (NDE) to establish a single statewide system of accountability for all public schools and school districts, regardless of Title I status, which is consistent with the requirements of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Waiver for the duration of the Waiver. After the Waiver has expired, the single statewide system of accountability must comply with the applicable requirements of federal law. **(BDR –195)**
2. Include a transitory provision requiring the Superintendent of Public Instruction to monitor the impact of the elimination of the mandate to offer supplemental services and school choice to parents as approved through Nevada’s ESEA Waiver and report back to the LCE during the 2013–2014 Interim. **(BDR –195)**

PROPOSALS RELATING TO NEVADA’S SYSTEM OF EXAMINATIONS

3. Amend the statutes to reflect that the assessment system in Nevada is now unified as a standards-based system. The merge incorporates all examinations, without exception, including the State’s writing examination. **(BDR –196)**
4. Send a letter from the LCE to the Office of the Governor and the Superintendent of Public Instruction requesting NDE to hold an “Assessment Summit.” All key stakeholders in education shall be invited to the Summit, including, at a minimum, the Chair and Vice Chair of the LCE. A report of findings from the Summit shall be submitted on or before February 1, 2013, to the LCE and the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) for distribution to the Chairs of the legislative standing policy committees on education and the money committees of the 77th Session of the Nevada Legislature.

The topics to be discussed in the Summit should include, at a minimum:

- The effectiveness of the continued use of Nevada's High School Proficiency Examination (HSPE) versus the potential effectiveness of replacing the HSPE with end of course examinations.
- The continued efficiency and effectiveness of the alternative HSPE assessments for the writing and science portions of the HSPE, pursuant to NRS 389.015 and NRS 389.805.
- The statewide administration of academic plan and advising instruments in middle school and for college entrance examinations in high school.
- Opportunities to assess students in a more organic fashion where student knowledge and capabilities are built into the educator's lesson plan, not in a formal assessment, which would include, at a minimum, a learning portfolio.

PROPOSALS RELATED TO EDUCATIONAL-RELATED REPORTS

5. Amend the statutes to remove the requirement for certain education-related programs and reports found to be outdated or duplicative, as identified below:
 - Repeal NRS 386.700 through NRS 386.780, related to the State's Empowerment Schools Program.
 - Repeal the requirement pursuant to NRS 392.129 relating to an annual report of the disposition of incidences involving the truancy of pupils.
 - Repeal the requirement pursuant to NRS 385.3789(2) relating to an annual report by the Commission on Educational Excellence of the progress of the schools that received an allocation of money from the Account for improving the achievement of pupils.
 - Repeal the State-level summary report of accountability required pursuant to NRS 385.34692.
 - Repeal subsections 3, 4, and 5 of NRS 392.4644 relating to reports of school level plans for the progressive discipline of pupils.
 - Repeal subsection 4 of NRS 389.017 and 389.560 requiring the school districts to report annually to NDE the description, purpose, and costs associated with examinations administered in the school district.

- Repeal subsections 2 and 3 of NRS 386.600 requiring the Superintendent of Public Instruction to compile the reports made by each governing body of a charter school in Nevada concerning the financial status of each charter school and its progress in achieving the mission and goals of the charter school.
 - Repeal NRS 389.012, which requires the State Board of Education to review, analyze, and compare performance of Nevada’s pupils on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), the State’s Criterion Referenced Tests (CRTs), and the HSPE.
 - Repeal NRS 389.570, which requires the Council to Establish Academic Standards in Public Schools to review the results of the CRTs to determine if improvement in performance was made by students. The review is also required to determine if the academic standards are of a similar difficulty level as required by other non-standards-based examinations. **(BDR -196)**
6. Send a letter from the LCE to Dr. Keith Rheault, former Superintendent of Public Instruction, relaying the action of the LCE in regard to the proposals concerning education reports.

PROPOSALS RELATING TO NEVADA’S SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTABILITY

7. Include a transitory provision requiring staff of NDE to analyze the data contained in the Automated System of Accountability Information for Nevada (SAIN) as it relates to the reports of incidents of bullying, cyber-bullying, harassment, or intimidation to ensure reliability of the data. A report of findings from the analysis shall be presented to the LCE during the 2013–2014 Interim. **(BDR -196)**
8. Send a letter from the Committee to NDE and all Nevada school districts that stipulates when funding is provided for peer mediation or alternative programs for disruptive pupils; any school that receives the funding shall include the goals of the program in its school improvement plan and monitor the success of the program.

PROPOSALS RELATING TO EDUCATIONAL PERSONNEL

9. Amend the statutes to revise the budget submission process for the Regional Training Programs for the Professional Development of Teachers and Administrators (RPDPs) to mirror the recommendations specified in Sections 38 and 47 of Senate Bill 197, as introduced during the 2011 Session. The RPDPs would be required to submit proposed budgets to the State Board of Education for review and possible inclusion in the budget of NDE. Once the budgets for the RPDPs are approved through the legislative process, revisions to the budgets would follow the same process other State agencies adhere to pursuant to Chapter 353, "State Financial Administration," of NRS. **(BDR -197)**
10. Amend the statutes to require the RPDPs to provide professional development for persons conducting teacher/administrator evaluations. This training program must be developed in cooperation with the Teacher and Leaders Council. In addition, require the RPDPs to provide targeted professional development based on teacher/administrator evaluation results. **(BDR -197)**
11. Amend the statutes to require the evaluation of the RPDPs by the governing body to include the data points described below:
 - The number of teachers, if any, who received training through the program in methods to engage parents and families.
 - The number of teachers/administrators, if any, who received training through the program concerning how to conduct an evaluation.
 - The number of teachers/administrators, if any, who received targeted professional development based on evaluation results. **(BDR -197)**
12. Send a letter from the LCE to the governing body of each RPDP requesting they consider the need for an identified trainer with expertise in parent and family engagement. Report back to the LCE on whether such a position was hired during the 2013–2014 Interim.
13. Include a statement in the final report urging NDE and school districts to create a system that allows for an equal number of educators and administrators, trained to evaluate teachers and principals, to provide career advice, professional development, and mentorship for new educators or those struggling in the classroom.
14. Include a statement in the final report urging school districts to work with recognized employee organizations to include the requirements specified under NRS 391.160 on the career ladder. Such a review should examine whether enhanced compensation must be in addition to the single salary schedule and designed through collective bargaining.

PROPOSALS RELATING TO THE P-16 ADVISORY COUNCIL

15. Amend the statutes to require the Governor to appoint a representative of early childhood in this State as one of the five voting members appointed to the P-16 Advisory Council. In addition, expand the list of representatives the Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the Assembly may choose from to include a representative of early childhood in this State on the P-16 Advisory Council. **(BDR -198)**
16. Amend the statutes to require the P-16 Advisory Council to address the extent to which beginning teachers know and are able to teach the Common Core State Standards. **(BDR -198)**

PROPOSALS RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

17. Amend statutes to require the Director of Nevada's Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to establish the Early Childhood Advisory Council within the Department. The membership of the Council, at a minimum, shall include a representative of NDE and two representatives of nonprofit entities, one representing the northern portion of the State and one representing the southern portion of the State. The representatives of nonprofit entities and all other members shall be appointed by the Director as determined appropriate.

The Council may accept gifts and grants to assist in meeting its duties. The Council shall, at a minimum, have the duties described below:

- A. Work to strengthen state-level coordination and collaboration among the various sectors and settings of early childhood programs in this State. In so doing, the Council shall work closely with NDE and the State Board of Education in carrying out its duties.
- B. Conduct periodic statewide assessments of needs relating to the quality and availability of programs and services for children who are in early childhood and identify opportunities for and barriers to coordination and collaboration among existing federally-funded and State-funded early childhood programs.
- C. Develop recommendations for:
 - (1) Increasing the overall participation of children in existing federal, State, and local programs for child care and early childhood education, including, without limitation, providing information on such programs to underrepresented and special populations;
 - (2) Increasing family engagement in child care and early childhood education;

- (3) The establishment or improvement of core elements of the early childhood system in this State, including, without limitation, a statewide unified system for collecting data relating to early childhood programs;
 - (4) A statewide professional development system for teachers engaged in early childhood education;
 - (5) The establishment of statewide standards for early childhood education in this State; and
 - (6) The establishment of a statewide definition of school readiness, which, at a minimum, must be based upon national school readiness indicators, as available. In addition, the definition must, at a minimum, reference the following five domains:
 - Physical Development and Health;
 - Social and Emotional Development;
 - Approaches to Learning;
 - Language and Early Literacy Development; and
 - Cognition and General Knowledge.
- D. Assess the capacity and effectiveness of institutions of higher education in this State in developing teachers in the field of early childhood education.
- E. Report progress made by the Council to the LCE during the 2013–2014 Interim and the Director of the LCB for distribution to the Chairs of the legislative standing policy committees on education of the 78th Session of the Nevada Legislature.
- F. Perform such other duties relating to early childhood education and programs as designated by the Director. **(BDR -199)**

PROPOSALS RELATING TO EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

18. Amend statutes to require submission of the results of the needs assessment of educational technology to the LCE and the Director of the LCB on or before May 1 instead of June 1 in even-numbered years. In addition, add the Office of the Governor and the Department of Administration's Budget Division to the entities that receive the results of the needs assessment.

Add a transitory section that would require the 2014 needs assessment of educational technology to include an assessment of the extent to which all school districts in Nevada have broadband access for teaching, learning, and school operations. This would include having: (a) an external internet connection to the internet service provider (ISP); and (b) internal wide area network (WAN) connections from the district to each school and among schools within the district. **(BDR -196)**

PROPOSALS RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS

19. Amend the statutes to provide for the execution of performance-based charter school contracts. In so doing, require the sponsor of a charter school to develop performance frameworks to objectively measure charter school performance in operation compliance, fiscal health, and academic outcomes. Finally, define the process for renewal, nonrenewal, and revocation of charter school performance-based contracts. **(BDR -200)**
20. Amend the statutes to extend enrollment preferences to all charter schools, instead of only those that are dedicated to providing educational programs and opportunities to pupils who are at risk. In so doing, expand the authority of a charter school to enroll certain children first, as identified below:
 - A child of a person employed by the charter school, regardless of full-time or part-time status (currently the NRS requires full-time status);
 - A child of a member of the committee to form the charter school; and
 - A child of a member of the school's governing body. **(BDR -200)**
21. Send a letter from the LCE to their staff and the Director of the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) asking that options for facility funding of charter schools be considered and submitted on or before February 1, 2013, to the LCE and the Director of the LCB for distribution to the Chairs of the legislative standing policy committees on education and the money committees of the 77th Session of the Nevada Legislature.

PROPOSALS RELATING TO THE NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

22. Adopt a Joint Resolution that would amend the *Nevada Constitution* to provide for a voting student member of the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada. The Board of Regents shall select the student member from a list of names submitted by each Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) institution. Each institution of the NSHE may submit up to three names, as decided by each institution. **(BDR -201)**

PROPOSALS RELATING TO FUNDING OF EDUCATION

23. Include a statement in the final report supporting the creation of an Education “Rainy Day Fund.”
24. Amend the statutes as reflected by the provisions of Assembly Bill 241 from the 2011 Legislative Session to establish the K-12 Public Education Stabilization Account. Funding that reverts back to the State Distributive School Account (DSA) at the end of odd-numbered years would be transferred to the Stabilization Account. The Superintendent of Public Instruction would be authorized to request a transfer of funds from the Stabilization Account to the DSA when there is a shortfall in the DSA. The request would be made of the Legislature when in session or of the Interim Finance Committee during the interim period between sessions. **(BDR -202)**

PROPOSALS RELATING TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS IN EDUCATION

25. Include a statement in the final report recognizing that fine arts programs may be associated with academic gains in the core subject areas, including mathematics and English Language Arts. In addition, these programs are also often linked to improvement in student motivation, concentration, confidence, and teamwork. Based upon these research findings, encourage school districts to consider these findings when reviewing education programs to continue in these difficult economic times. When implementing fine arts programs, particularly in elementary schools, school districts are also encouraged to utilize teachers who are licensed to teach in the areas of fine arts.
26. Amend the statutes to authorize a teacher’s aide to monitor student technical laboratories instead of the requirement for a licensed teacher. **(BDR -197)**
27. Amend the statutes by repealing NRS 393.092, NRS 393.095, NRS 393.096, and NRS 393.097, relating to school construction. The requirement for an oversight panel for school facilities in school districts whose population is 100,000 or more would be removed. In addition, all school districts, regardless of size, would no longer be required to submit an annual report containing written recommendations for financing the costs of new construction, design, maintenance, and repair of school facilities. **(BDR -203)**
28. Amend the statutes to authorize attendance officers to write habitual truancy citations in addition to police officers. **(BDR -197)**
29. Include a statement in the final report noting the Committee’s continued support of the work of Communities in Schools (CIS).
30. Include a statement in the final report noting the Committee’s continued support of the work of Save the Children.

31. Amend the statutes to authorize the board of trustees of a school district to donate surplus personal property to another school district within the State of Nevada. Currently, NRS 332.185 limits the authority of a school district to donate surplus personal property to a charter school located within the school district. **(BDR – 203)**

32. Amend the statutes to require the health academic standards to include components related to instruction of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) at grades 7 through 12. The standards shall include the elements of an instruction program established by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross or another program, which is nationally recognized. In addition, the standards shall reflect the most current national evidence-based Emergency Cardiovascular Care guidelines and incorporate psychomotor skills development into the standards-based instruction. Finally, the standards shall include the use of an automated external defibrillator. **(BDR –204)**