

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 218E.605

This summary presents the recommendations approved by the Legislative Committee on Education at its meeting on September 21, 2020. The bill draft requests (BDRs) will be forwarded to the Legislative Commission for transmittal to the 81st Session of the Nevada Legislature.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATION

Educational Personnel

1. Propose legislation to direct Nevada's Department of Education (NDE) to develop, implement, and analyze the results of statewide educator exit surveys in consultation with the Nevada State Teacher Recruitment and Retention Advisory (TRRA) Task Force. The BDR would also encourage NDE to utilize external partners to assist in this process. Furthermore, school districts will be required to collect and report exit survey information in their annual report to NDE. The Department will then review school district exit survey information and make recommendations for improvement to the school districts. Nevada's Department of Education will report the information collected regarding exit surveys, along with any recommendations proposed for school districts or for changes in statute, to the 2021–2022 Interim Legislative Committee on Education. **(BDR –)**
2. Propose legislation to revise [NRS 388A.518](#), and any other relevant statutes, to modify licensing and other qualifications for certain personnel employed by a charter school, including requiring charter schools to employ licensed teachers. Any person currently teaching in a charter school who would not meet these proposed qualifications would be allowed to continue teaching for up to five years while obtaining the necessary qualifications. **(BDR –)**

Testing of Pupils

3. Propose legislation to provide that the requirement to administer certain assessments under both the federal [Every Student Succeeds Act](#) (Pub.L. 114-95) and state law will be waived to the extent granted by the federal government. **(BDR –)**
4. Propose legislation to require NDE to review the educational value of assessments, the cost of assessments, and redundancy in similar information being measured by different assessments. The proposal would also require NDE to adopt by regulation appropriate limitations on assessments, including, but not limited to: (1) the actual instructional time lost by students due to the administration of certain assessments; and (2) the number of tests administered. If a school district wants to exceed the recommended limits, the school district must request a waiver from the State Board of Education to exceed such limits. **(BDR –)**

Charter Schools

5. Propose legislation to require governing bodies of each charter school in Nevada that contracts with an educational management organization to report to the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) by November 1 of each even-numbered year the amount paid to the management organization. **(BDR –)**

Transportation of Pupils

6. Propose legislation to revise [NRS 386.830](#) to require Nevada's Department of Public Safety (DPS) to provide written notice of violations discovered during semiannual school bus inspections to the superintendent of a school district, or his or her designee, where the vehicle operates. Further, require DPS to provide an annual report detailing the inspections and related recommendations to ensure the health of the school bus fleet to each district superintendent or the head of each charter school. **(BDR –)**

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMITTEE ACTION

Educational Personnel

7. Include a statement in the Committee's final report expressing support for the establishment of a teacher hotline program—whether online, by telephone, or other platform—where teachers can request and receive timely support for immediate issues and concerns from experienced teachers. The Committee further supports efforts by NDE to work with the Office of the Governor and the TRRA Task Force to develop the parameters of such a program and an estimate of the cost to establish and administer the program.
8. Send a letter to the superintendent of each school district requesting that each district report to NDE and the TRRA Task Force on exit survey information the school district collects, if any.
9. Include a statement in the Committee's final report stating that if the Legislature creates and funds a teacher incentive program, NDE and the school districts are encouraged to collaborate to ensure districts are utilizing the flexibilities provided within the program.
10. Send a letter to the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) requesting that NSHE ensure its institutions are allowing students who want to enter the teaching profession to enroll in courses before passing the Praxis exam.
11. Send a letter to the superintendent of each school district and Nevada's teacher unions, including, but not limited to, the Clark County Education Association, the Nevada State Education Association, and the Washoe Education Association, requesting the entities to identify and report on current licensure barriers and potential statutory solutions to NDE. Further, request the entities to report this information to the director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau by December 31, 2020, for transmittal to the Senate and Assembly Committees on Education of the 81st Legislative Session.

12. Include a statement in the Committee's final report expressing support for the important work already completed by the superintendent of each school district and NSHE in "Grow Your Own" partnerships, which assist in the recruitment of teachers. The statement will further encourage investment in continuing these partnerships.
13. Include a statement in the Committee's final report encouraging legislators, the board of trustees of each school district, and the districts' superintendents to consider whether funding, professional development, and sufficient training on new programs are available prior to the implementation of those new programs.
14. Send a letter to the board of trustees and superintendent of each school district requesting that school districts ensure the development of student learning goals and objectives are teacher driven, pursuant to the requirements outlined in [NRS 391.480](#).

Educational Programs and Resources

15. Include a statement in the Committee's final report expressing support for appropriations or the reinstatement of funding for wraparound services for children and families once funding is available.
16. Include a statement in the Committee's final report expressing support for additional, dedicated funding to classroom resources once funding is available.
17. Include a statement in the Committee's final report expressing support for funding the Teachers' School Supplies Assistance Account once funding is available. Further, express support for including technology needs for staff and students in the definition of "supplies."
18. Send a letter to NDE and the board of trustees of each school district requesting the entities to ensure appropriate distance learning materials and information are accessible for both the blind, deaf, hard of hearing, and visually impaired students and blind, deaf, hard of hearing, and visually impaired parents or guardians.
19. Include a statement in the Committee's final report supporting any upcoming legislation or other efforts that: (1) establish a coordinated curriculum for robotics programs; and (2) better leverage funding for career and technical education, dual enrollment, and dual credit programs to be more effective.

Student and Educational Personnel Safety and Well-Being

20. Include a statement in the Committee's final report acknowledging the recommendations included in the anti-bullying, cyber-bullying, and discriminatory harassment working group's report.
21. Include a statement in the Committee's final report encouraging NDE, SPCSA, and the superintendent of each school district to ensure teachers and staff are provided with informational resources to assist in recognizing mental health disorders and making appropriate referrals to help fellow teachers, pupils, and staff with their own mental health needs.

22. Include a statement in the Committee's final report encouraging members of the 81st Legislative Session to prioritize funding for school safety and student well-being initiatives and programs once funding is available.
23. Send a letter notifying the superintendents of Nevada's two largest school districts that it has come to the Committee's attention that certain requirements regarding the Handle with Care Program, as established pursuant to [NRS 388.14538](#), have not been implemented in a timely manner, and the letter should urge both school districts to fulfill those requirements as soon as possible.

Testing of Pupils

24. Include a statement in the Committee's final report notifying NDE and the superintendent of each school district that the requirement to offer certain assessments in any language in which the assessments are published, pursuant to [NRS 390.105](#), as amended by [Assembly Bill 219](#) (2019), has not been implemented in a timely manner, and urge the entities to fulfill the requirement as soon as possible.