

## **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

### ***(Nevada Revised Statutes [NRS] 218.5351- 218.5355)***

Duties: The Legislative Committee on Education evaluates, reviews, and comments upon issues related to education in the State of Nevada. It may also recommend policy changes concerning public education to the full Legislature.

Selection Process: The Committee consists of eight legislative members appointed by Legislative Leadership.

Budget: For the 2009-2011 Biennium, State funding of \$9,552 will support the functions of the Committee. In addition, the budget for the Committee contains funding of \$35,000 over the biennium to support contract services for the Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public Schools and an additional \$8,000 to support contract services for the Commission on Educational Technology.

#### Communication Structure:

- ✓ State Board of Education, School Districts, and Public Schools: Pursuant to NRS 218.5354, the Committee prescribes standards for the review and evaluation of the reports of the State Board of Education, school districts, and public schools.
- ✓ Department of Education: Pursuant to NRS 218.5354, the Committee recommends to the Department of Education programs of remedial study and supplemental educational services proven to be successful in improving the academic achievement of pupils.
- ✓ Commission on Educational Excellence: Pursuant to NRS 218.5354, the Committee recommends programs, practices, and strategies to the Commission that have proven effective in improving the academic achievement and proficiency of pupils.
- ✓ Legislative Bureau of Educational Accountability and Program Evaluation: Pursuant to NRS 218.5356, the Committee may request the Bureau to research and evaluate programs related to education.

EXHIBIT J Education Governance  
X Entire document provided.

Document consists of 9 pages.

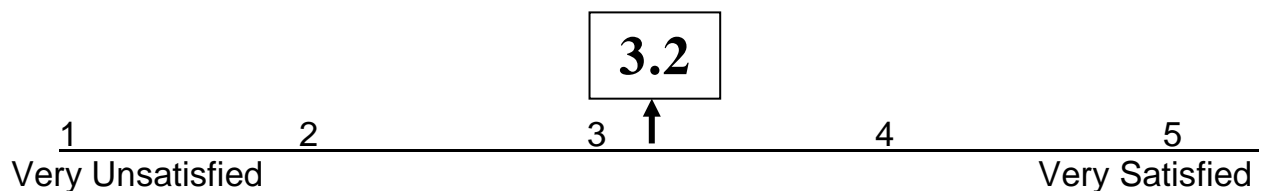
Due to size limitations, pages \_\_ provided. A copy of the complete document is available through the Research Library (775/684-6827) or e-mail [library@lcb.state.nv.us](mailto:library@lcb.state.nv.us)).

Meeting Date 031110

## **SURVEY RESULTS**

**Respondents: 44 Surveys, Representing 70 Respondents**

**How satisfied are you with the Committee's process for reviewing, evaluating, and making recommendations concerning issues related to education in the State of Nevada? (n=40 Surveys)**



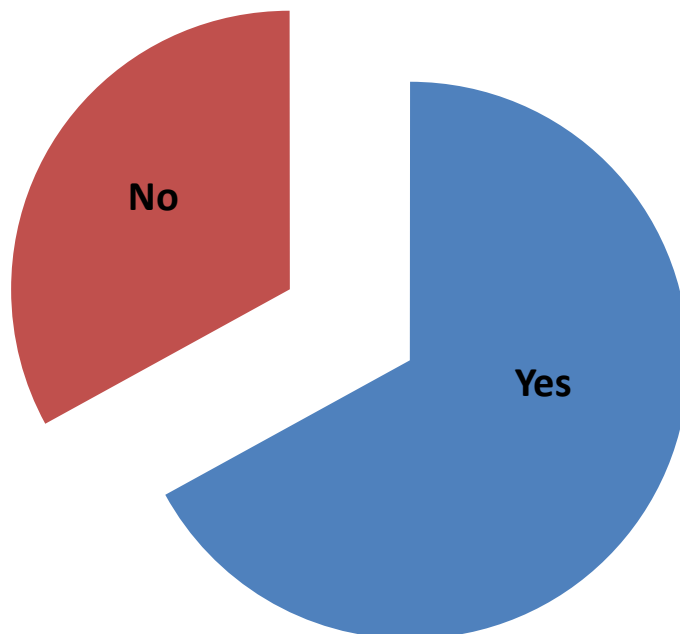
### **Comments:**

- The Legislature or some other entity should direct the Committee on what issues should be reviewed during the interim. (n=4) [Due to time constraints, the Committee is limited on what can be addressed during the interim.] [There is often a lack of structure, with no time for preparation or study.] [The Committee has not been as focused on the actions of the various other education commissions and councils. Because of this, the other entities have gone back to a business as usual attitude in the education community.]
- Committee members do not understand the education system in Nevada. (n=3) [The Committee frequently demands results from the Department of Education that are contingent upon school district cooperation.] [The Committee has made recommendations concerning issues that would be better left to the local school districts, as the school districts are more closely attuned to the constituents they represent.]
- The Committee is excellent at soliciting input from all interested parties. (n=2) [Because the Committee meets during the interim and includes members from both houses, there is more time for discussion and consensus building on important issues. This is the single most important body for statewide education policy-making in Nevada.]

- The role of the Committee should be the role of the State Board of Education. (n=2) [Need to make the governance structure of education more streamlined. The State Superintendent has too many “masters.”] [The Committee only has the time to listen to issues one time; the State Board has more time to listen to issues and have meetings with the key entities.]
- The role of the Committee in listening to education issues and making recommendations concerning the issues to the full Legislature is essential. (n=2)
- The Committee needs to review more research on the effectiveness of programs prior to enacting legislation to support certain programs. (n=1)
- The Committee should deal with matters of education governance and policy, not administration. (n=1)
- The Committee should be responsible for providing the basics in educational structure and financing. Local control is often overruled due to State political involvement. (n=1)

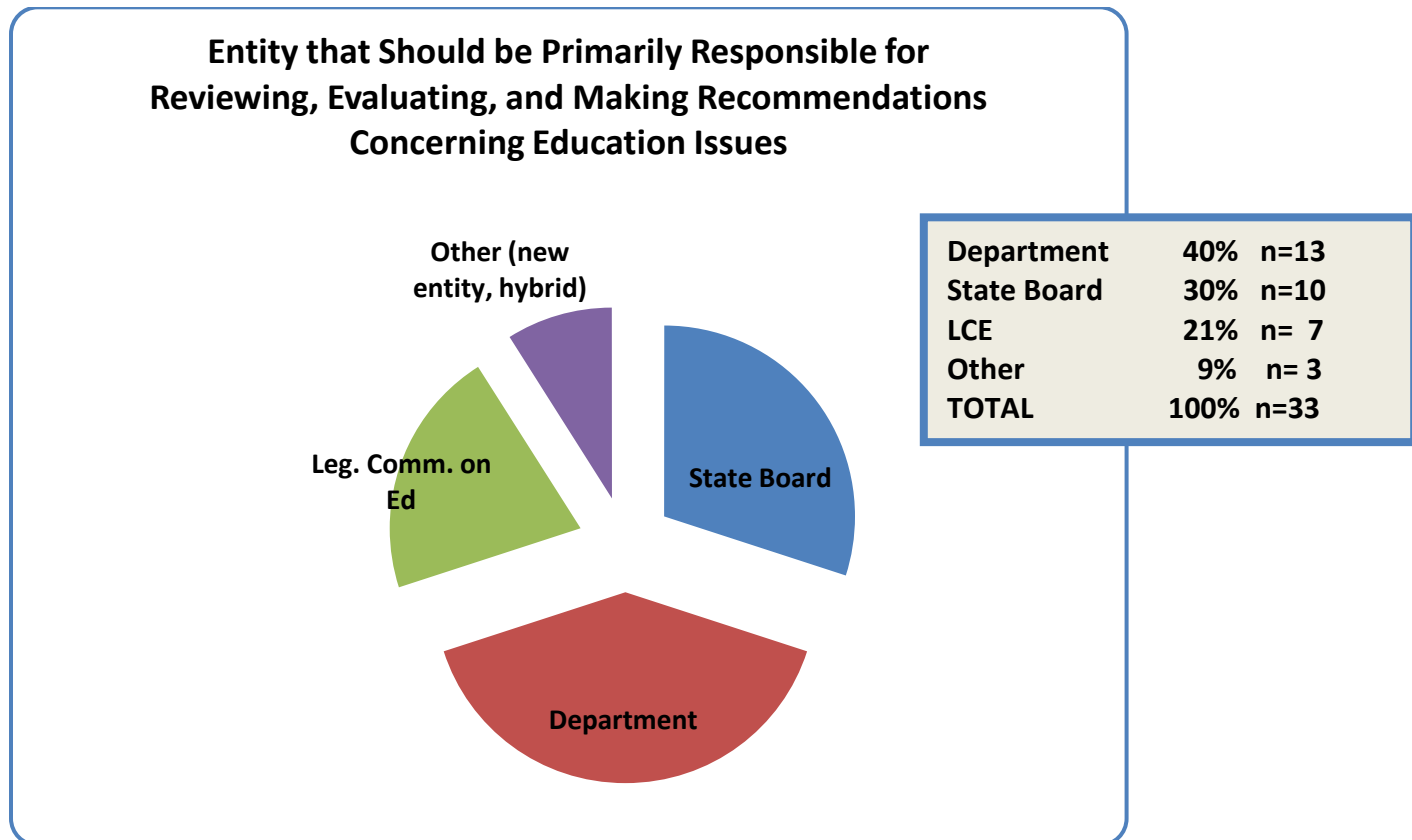
**Based upon your knowledge, is there a need in Nevada to continue the Legislative Committee on Education in its current form? (n=42 Surveys)**

**Need to Continue the  
Legislative Committee on Education?**



Yes	67%	n=28
No	33%	n=14
TOTAL	100%	n=42

**Within your ideal system for public education governance, which entity should be primarily responsible for reviewing, evaluating, and making recommendations concerning issues related to education in the State of Nevada? (n=33 Surveys)**



### **Comments:**

- The Committee is the most unbiased group to make decisions related to education. (n=3) [The State Board and Department are frequently partial to recommendations that are “easiest” for their workload.] [Because the Committee is bipartisan and bicameral, but not dominated by professional educators, the Committee has been able to take the larger view of what is best for our State in terms of the most appropriate educational policies.] [The Committee, due to its makeup and the biennial change in chairmanship, does not seem to get mired in partisan issues. This has been extremely helpful to meaningful reform efforts in Nevada.]

- The State Board should be responsible for reviewing, evaluating, and making recommendations concerning education issues. (n=3) [The Office of the Governor should also have a role.]
- The Committee and State Board should have specified functions. (n=2) [The Committee should focus only on changes to State law. The State Board should focus only on the interpretation of regulations under State law.] [The Committee should provide the basic structure and resources for the State's system of public education. The State Board should approve policies directing the K-12 educational system.]
- The Department should be responsible as it has the personnel with the greatest education, training, and experience in education and the administration of education. (n=2)
- A new and improved State Board should be the education leader, identifying issues, recommending policies, and initiating change. (n=2)
- Since the Legislature is the potential primary party to any lawsuit about statewide policy and funding, it should be responsible. (n=1)
- The Department, with input from the school districts, should be responsible for reviewing, evaluating, and making recommendations concerning education issues. (n=1)

**If the Legislative Committee on Education is continued, the following ideas represent revisions to increase the Committee's effectiveness.**

- Continue to reach out and involve all stakeholders. (n=4) [Relying on the Department and school district personnel is not enough.] [Parents need a voice at the hearings.]
- It would be helpful to have the expected chairs of the Assembly Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Health and Education be included in the membership of the Legislative Committee on Education. This would help the chairs of the session education committees be well versed in the issues being advanced by the interim committee. (n=3)
- The Committee should be more knowledgeable of education issues in the State and nationally. (n=2) [Include professional educators on the Committee.] [Increase the budget of the Committee to bring in top quality education people with the latest ideas. Also, attend national education meetings.]
- Solicit input from educational organizations or individuals in the field of education about issues that should be topics for the Committee to consider. (n=2) [Currently, the Committee considers issues that are of concern to legislators and policy makers; those issues may not be the same issues that are plaguing the teachers, counselors, and administrators in education.]
- The Legislature or some other entity should direct the Committee on what issues should be reviewed during the interim. (n=2)
- The Committee should meet more often. (n=2) [If the Committee is allotted more meetings, it could follow up on issues more thoroughly.]
- The Committee should make recommendations concerning education policies to the State Board; recommendations concerning education financing should be made to the Legislature. (n=1)
- Recordings of meetings and reports should be posted on the Legislative website. (n=1)

- Have work sessions scheduled for two separate meetings, so that all interested parties will have time to see where issues are headed and they will have time to make comments, as appropriate. (n=1)
- The Committee should advise the Legislature regarding laws that need to be changed, created, or eliminated to support goals established by the Department. The Committee should not direct educational reform, as it is too politically positioned. (n=1)
- The Committee should be allotted more bill draft requests. (n=1)



**If the Legislative Committee on Education is not continued, the following ideas represent how the functions of the Committee could be continued.**

- The Department should review, evaluate, and make recommendations concerning education issues to the State Board of Education. (n=4) [Only if adequate funding and proper authority are given.]
- The Department should make recommendations to the Legislature, as staffs of the Department are the most knowledgeable of education issues in Nevada. (n=4)
- The State Board should make recommendations to the Legislature. (n=2)
- In order to continue a legislative review of issues, hold interim studies on specific topics. (n=2)
- School district input needs to be obtained. (n=1)

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