

COMMISSION ON EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE **(*Nevada Revised Statutes [NRS] 385.3781 - 385.379*)**

Duties: The Commission on Educational Excellence establishes a program of educational excellence designed exclusively for pupils enrolled in kindergarten through grade 6 in public schools in the State of Nevada. In so doing, the Commission addresses the approval of grants to schools from the Account for Programs for Innovation and the Prevention of Remediation (NRS 385.379) to support implementation of plans for improvement.

Selection Process: The Commission consists of nine members. The Governor appoints eight members; the Superintendent of Public Instruction serves as an ex officio voting member of the Commission.

Budget: Due to budget reductions, funding was not approved by the 2009 Legislature for the Commission for grants to schools. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2007-2008, State funding of approximately \$14,500 supported the operation of the Commission. During FY 2007-2008, the Commission allocated \$29.3 million in grants to schools.

Communication Structure:

- ✓ Department of Education: Pursuant to NRS 385.3784, the Department of Education provides administrative support, equipment, and office space as is necessary for the Commission to carry out its duties.
- ✓ Reporting: Pursuant to NRS 385.3789, the Commission must provide an annual report concerning the distribution of funds to the State Board, Governor, Legislative Committee on Education, Legislative Bureau of Educational Accountability and Program Evaluation, Interim Finance Committee, and the board of trustees of each school district.

EXHIBIT F Education Governance

Document consists of 8 pages

☒ Entire document provided.

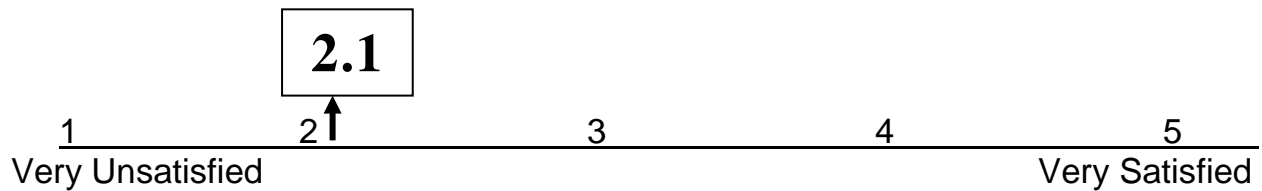
☐ Due to size limitations, pages _____ provided. A copy of the complete document is available through the Research Library (775/684-6827) or e-mail library@lcb.state.nv.us.

Meeting Date 031110

SURVEY RESULTS

Respondents: 37 Surveys, Representing 71 Respondents

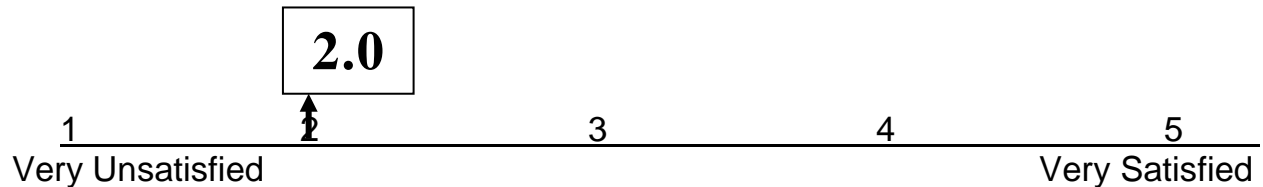
How satisfied are you with the process for establishing a program of educational excellence in the State of Nevada? (n=34 Surveys)



Comments:

- The Commission has served its time. It should be dissolved or placed under the Department of Education. (n=3)
- The Commission has never established a program of educational excellence. (n=3) [The Commission has only distributed massive amounts of funds.]
- This program was not as effective as it could have been. (n=2) [The process was too wide open, with almost no controls.] [Principals are not always able to identify the areas in need of improvement.]
- This is one of the most innovative and effective programs. (n=2)
- The requirements for obtaining these grants is cumbersome, time consuming, and an unfair practice. (n=1) [Many school districts cannot afford grant writers.]
- This program has been underfunded. (n=1)
- Programs funded do not always work. (n=1)

How satisfied are you with the process for allocating funds to schools from the Account for Programs for Innovation and the Prevention of Remediation? (n=33 Surveys)

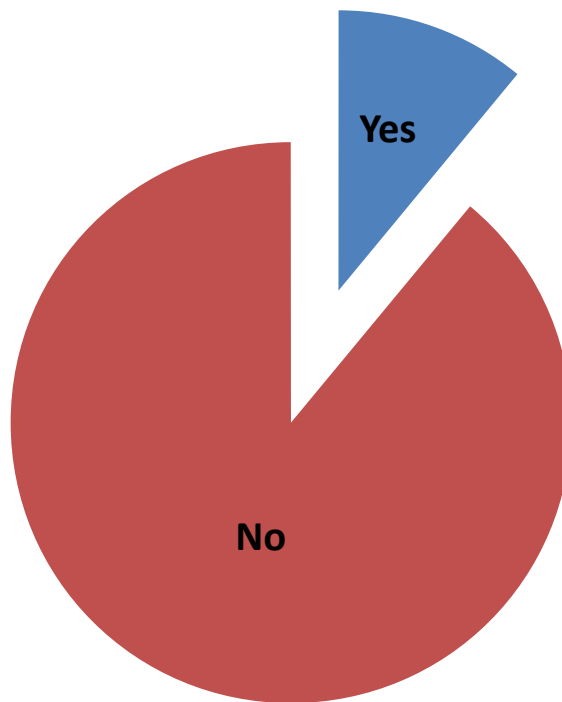


Comments:

- There is no consistency in the approval process. (n=3) [In some cases, schools that submitted duplicate applications were approved for different grant amounts.] [Funds have been allocated in a very haphazard fashion.]
- The Commission is supposed to approve funds for innovative programs. What innovative programs were funded? (n=2)
- Many smaller school districts do not have the resources to create competitive proposals. (n=2)
- The funding allocated to schools was used very effectively and appeared to impact student achievement positively. (n=1)
- Too much insider trading is going on with these funds. (n=1)
- In some cases, all of the funding needed was not approved. For example, funding for software was approved, but funding for hardware was not. (n=1)
- The application timelines need to match the operational timelines of all school districts. (n=1)

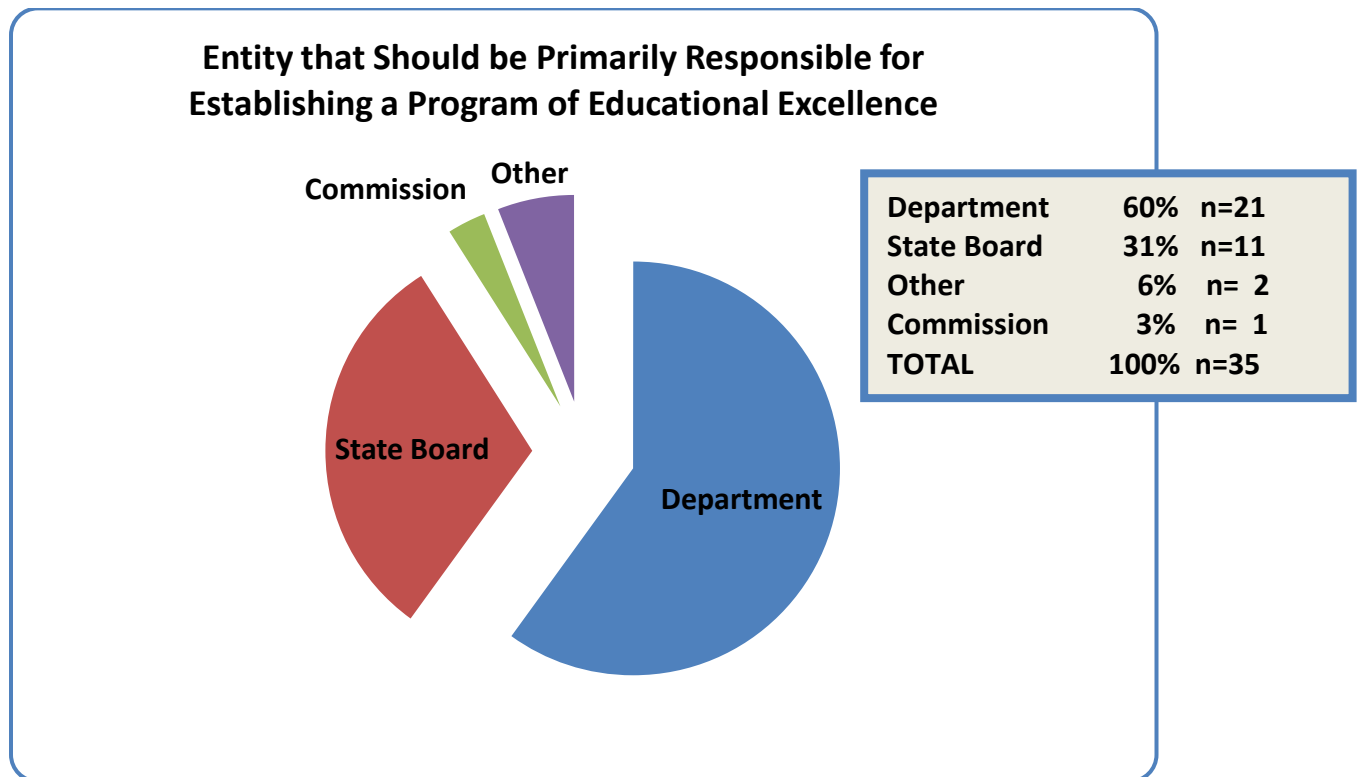
**Based upon your knowledge, is there a need in Nevada to continue the Commission on Educational Excellence?
(n=36 Surveys)**

**Need to Continue the Commission on
Educational Excellence?**



Yes	11%	n= 4
No	89%	n=32
TOTAL	100%	n=36

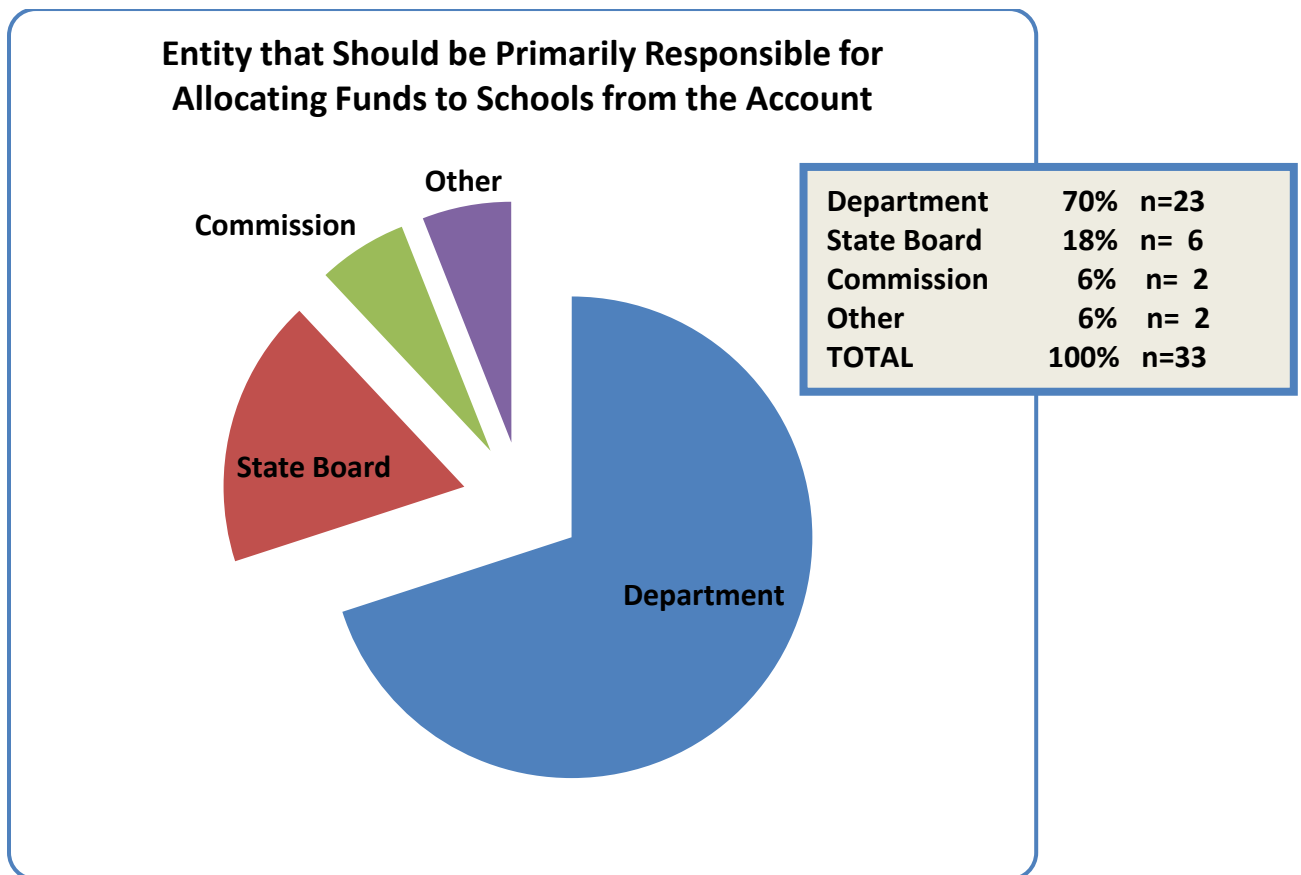
Within your ideal system for public education governance, which entity should be primarily responsible for establishing a program of educational excellence in the State of Nevada? (n=35 Surveys)



Comments:

- The Department should establish the program. (n=4) [The Department already provides the administrative support for the Commission.] [The Department has the knowledge and expertise to know what type of help school districts need.]
- If the State Board of Education becomes an appointed Board, it should be responsible for establishing a program of educational excellence. (n=1)
- Too many layers of approval for this grant program. (n=1)

Within your ideal system for public education governance, which entity should be primarily responsible for allocating funds to schools from the Account for Programs for Innovation and the Prevention of Remediation? (n=33 Surveys)



Comments:

- The Department should approve the allocation of funds to schools. (n=4) [The Department should convene an advisory group to assist with the recommendations.]
- The State Board should approve the allocations, based upon recommendations from the Department of Education. (n=3) [The Department should convene an advisory group to assist with the recommendations.]

If the Commission on Educational Excellence is continued, the following ideas represent revisions to increase the Commission's effectiveness.

- The funding should be allocated based upon adequate yearly progress status. However, once a school has achieved adequate yearly progress, some funding should be allocated to maintain the program. (n=1)
- An efficient appeals process should be established for grant applications not approved. (n=1)
- The Commission should identify best practices and allocate the funds accordingly. (n=1)
- The Commission should revise the process for the allocation of funds to be more objective, thus making the allocations across schools more consistent. (n=1)

If the Commission on Educational Excellence is not continued, the following ideas represent how the functions of the Commission could be continued.

- The Program should be under the direct supervision of the State's Superintendent of Public Instruction, with responsibilities for carrying out the program given to the Department. (n=11) [The State Superintendent should convene an advisory group to develop the program and approve the allocation of funds to schools. The advisory group should be made up of business representatives, university representatives, coordinators of the regional professional development programs, and nationally certified teachers.]
- The Program of Educational Excellence should be established by the State Board of Education. Recommendations to allocate the funds should be made by the Department. The State Board should have authority for final approval of the recommended allocations. (n=11) [The Department should convene an advisory committee to assist in making recommendations for allocations.] [Participation by the State Board should only occur if its membership is revised to be appointed.]

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