

Joe Lombardo
Governor

Jhone M. Ebert
Superintendent of
Public Instruction

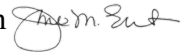


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MEMORANDUM

TO: Nicolas Anthony, Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau

FROM: Jhone M. Ebert, Superintendent of Public Instruction 

DATE: December 2, 2024

SUBJECT: Advisory Council for Family Engagement Annual Report, 2025, as Required by NRS 385.620

The Nevada Department of Education (NDE), on behalf of the Advisory Council for Family Engagement, submits the required February 1, 2025, report for transmission to the Legislature, per Nevada Revised Statute 385.620.

The report outlines recommendations to the Legislature in support of Nevada Family Engagement best practices and describes the activities of the Advisory Council.

The report is respectfully submitted as an attachment to this memorandum. If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Briske, Director of the Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement at jjbriske@doe.nv.gov or 702-668-4328.

Attachment: 2025 Advisory Council for Family Engagement Legislative Report

cc: Christy McGill, Deputy Superintendent, Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement
Jeff Briske, Director, Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement
Rebecca Dirks Garcia, President, Advisory Council for Family Engagement



ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR FAMILY ENGAGEMENT: 2025 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

FEBRUARY 1, 2024 – FEBRUARY 1, 2025



Table of Contents

Annual Legislative Report Requirement in Statutes	3
NRS 385.620(10) – Recommendations for Legislation	3
NRS 385.620(1) – Policy Review	3
NRS 385.620(2) – District Accountability Reports	4
NRS 385.620(3) – Reviewing Nevada Best Practices	4
NRS 385.620(4) – Reviewing Out-of-State Best Practices	4
NRS 385.620(5) – Identifying Effective Communication and Outreach for Families Who Have Limited Time to Get Involved	4
NRS 385.620(6) – Impact of Family Engagement on Performance, Attendance, and Discipline	5
NRS 385.620(7) – Identifying Effective Communication and Outreach for Families with Children Who are English Learners	5
NRS 385.620(8) – Determining Need for State and/or District Family Engagement Coordinator	6
NRS 385.620(9) – Working with the Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement	6

Annual Legislative Report Requirement in Statutes

Pursuant to [Nevada Revised Statutes \(NRS\) 385.620\(10\)](#), the Advisory Council for Family Engagement (Council) shall on or before February 1 of each year, submit a report to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmission to the Legislature in odd-numbered years and to the Legislative Commission in even-numbered years, describing the activities of the Advisory Council and any recommendations for legislation.

NRS 385.620(10) – Recommendations for Legislation

Pursuant to [NRS 385.620\(10\)](#), the Council shall on or before February 1 of each year, submit a report to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmission to the Legislature in odd-numbered years and to the Legislative Commission in even-numbered years, describing the activities of the Advisory Council and any recommendations for legislation.

The Council recommends the following for legislation:

1. The need to fund and require a parental involvement and family engagement coordinator in each public school district and the necessity to continue the appointment of a statewide parental involvement and family engagement coordinator. Funding to include the ability for the parental involvement and family engagement coordinators to attend family engagement professional development opportunities.
2. Require district accountability reports pursuant to [NRS 385A.320](#) and similar information in the annual report of accountability prepared by the State Public Charter School Authority shall be in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language that parents can understand, sent to families, and posted on the Nevada Report Card website to ensure accessibility for families.
3. Require all boards, commissions, and councils that impact students to have an appointed family representative of a child currently enrolled in a public school.
4. Legislative language should use family-centered, inclusive language. The term “parent” is not inclusive of other family members who serve as the child’s guardian or caregiver.
5. The need to fund a platform to collect and analyze family engagement data to determine the extent to which the level of parental involvement and family engagement affects the performance, attendance, and discipline of pupils.

NRS 385.620(1) – Policy Review

Pursuant to [NRS 385.620\(1\)](#), the Council shall review the policy of parental involvement adopted by the State Board and the policy of parental involvement and family engagement adopted by the board of trustees of each school district pursuant to [NRS 392.457](#).

- In 2024, the Council created a workgroup to review the State Board of Education’s family engagement policy and provide feedback and recommendations for improvement to the Council as a whole.

NRS 385.620(2) – District Accountability Reports

Pursuant to [NRS 385.620\(2\)](#), the Council shall review the information relating to communication with and participation, involvement and engagement of parents and families that is included in the annual report of accountability for each school district pursuant to [NRS 385A.320](#) and similar information in the annual report of accountability prepared by the State Public Charter School Authority and a college or university within the Nevada System of Higher Education that sponsors a charter school pursuant to subsection 3 of [NRS 385A.070](#).

- The Council included in its report the recommendation to require district accountability reports pursuant to NRS 385A.320 to be in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand, sent to families, and posted on the Nevada Report Card website to ensure accessibility for families.

NRS 385.620(3) – Reviewing Nevada Best Practices

Pursuant to [NRS 385.620\(3\)](#), the Council shall review any effective practices carried out in individual school districts to increase parental involvement and family engagement and determine the feasibility of carrying out those practices on a statewide basis.

- The Council is collaborating with the Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement (PIFE) to update Nevada’s statewide family engagement framework to include more family engagement best practices targeted to specific audiences: families, teachers and counselors, administrators, and district, state, and community leaders. This process includes reviewing best practices in Nevada and determining whether those practices should be included in the framework.

NRS 385.620(4) – Reviewing Out-of-State Best Practices

Pursuant to [NRS 385.620\(4\)](#), the Council shall review any effective practices carried out in other states to increase parental involvement and family engagement and determine the feasibility of carrying out those practices in this State.

- The Council is collaborating with the PIFE Office to update Nevada’s statewide family engagement framework to include more family engagement best practices targeted to specific audiences: families, teachers and counselors, administrators, and district, state, and community leaders. This process includes reviewing best practices in other states and determining whether those practices should be included in the framework.

NRS 385.620(5) – Identifying Effective Communication and Outreach for Families Who Have Limited Time to Get Involved

Pursuant to [NRS 385.620\(5\)](#), the Council shall identify methods to communicate effectively and provide outreach to parents, legal guardians, and families of pupils who have limited time to become involved in the education of their children for various reasons, including, without limitation, work schedules, single-parent homes, and other family obligations.

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- The Council is collaborating with the PIFE Office to update Nevada’s statewide family engagement framework to include more family engagement best practices, specifically best practices in early childhood. One of the standards the framework addresses is two-way communication with families. Existing family engagement strategies in the framework, and additional outreach and communication strategies added to the framework, prioritize evidence- and researched-based strategies that have proven to be effective for all families, including families who have limited time to become involved in the education of their children for various reasons.

NRS 385.620(6) – Impact of Family Engagement on Performance, Attendance, and Discipline

Pursuant to [NRS 385.620\(6\)](#), the Council shall identify the manner in which the level of parental involvement and family engagement affects the performance, attendance, and discipline of pupils.

- The PIFE office collaborated with the Office of Safe and Respectful Learning Environment to assist in their Building Future Conference: Safer Schools, Healthier Students, Stronger Communities. Sessions related to family engagement included: The Safe Voice Platform, Social Emotional Learning and the Military Connected Child and Nevada’s Approach for Homeless and Foster Care Students.
- The Council's recommendation to fund a parent engagement survey and platform is a strategic step toward gathering essential data. This would allow for a more comprehensive understanding of how parental involvement and family engagement correlate with student performance, attendance, and discipline. By implementing this platform, PIFE could effectively analyze these connections and provide data-driven insights, which could, in turn, inform targeted interventions and support services for students and families.

NRS 385.620(7) – Identifying Effective Communication and Outreach for Families with Children Who are English Learners

Pursuant to [NRS 385.620\(7\)](#), the Council shall identify methods to communicate effectively with and provide outreach to parents, legal guardians, and families of pupils who are English learners.

- The Council is collaborating with the PIFE Office to update Nevada’s statewide family engagement framework to include more family engagement best practices, specifically best practices in early childhood. One of the standards the framework addresses is two-way communication with families. Existing family engagement strategies in the framework, and additional outreach and communication strategies added to the framework, prioritize evidence- and researched-based strategies that have proven to be effective for all families, including families of pupils who are English learners.

NRS 385.620(8) – Determining Need for State and/or District Family Engagement Coordinator

Pursuant to [NRS 385.620\(8\)](#), the Council shall determine the necessity for the appointment of a statewide parental involvement and family engagement coordinator or a parental involvement and family engagement coordinator in each school district, or both.

- The Council continues to support the need of a statewide parental involvement and family engagement coordinator and the need for each public school district to have funded a full-time parental involvement and family engagement coordinator. Currently, not every district in Nevada has a full-time parental involvement and family engagement coordinator whose sole focus is family engagement.

NRS 385.620(9) – Working with the Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement

Pursuant to [NRS 385.620\(9\)](#), the Council shall work in collaboration with the Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement created by [NRS 385.630](#) to carry out the duties prescribed in [NRS 385.635](#).

- The PIFE Office is responsible for planning and implementing a statewide family engagement summit every other year. The Council is assisting the PIFE Office in planning the statewide family engagement summit that will be held in June 2025.
- The Council works and collaborates with the PIFE Office to ensure the duties and responsibilities prescribed in NRS 385.635 aligns with the Council's work and family engagement best practice.
- The Council is collaborating with the PIFE Office to update Nevada's statewide family engagement framework to include more family engagement best practices, specifically best practices in early childhood.