



NEVADA LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
(Nevada Revised Statutes [NRS] 218E.605)

SUMMARY MINUTES AND ACTION REPORT

The fourth meeting of the Nevada Legislature's Committee on Education was held on Thursday, April 26, 2012, at 8:30 a.m. in Room 4412 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 3138 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. A copy of this set of "Summary Minutes and Action Report," including the "Meeting Notice and Agenda" ([Exhibit A](#)) and other substantive exhibits, is available on the Nevada Legislature's website at <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/interim/76th2011/committee/>. In addition, copies of the audio record may be purchased through the Legislative Counsel Bureau's (LCB's) Publications Office (e-mail: publications@lcb.state.nv.us; telephone: 775/684-6835).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

Assemblyman David P. Bobzien, Chair
Senator Moises (Mo) Denis, Vice Chair
Senator Don Gustavson
Senator Mark A. Manendo
Assemblywoman Marilyn Dondero Loop
Assemblyman Harvey J. Munford
Assemblyman Lynn D. Stewart

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

Senator Shirley A. Breeden

OTHER LEGISLATOR PRESENT:

Senator Barbara K. Cegavske

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Melinda Martini, Senior Research Analyst
Kristin Roberts, Senior Principal Deputy Legislative Counsel
Nita Barnes, Senior Research Secretary, Research Division

OPENING REMARKS

- Assemblyman David P. Bobzien, Chair, welcomed members and the public to the fourth meeting of the Legislative Committee on Education.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Ray Bacon, President, Nevada Manufacturers Association, provided an article titled “Education Dept. Proposes Reforms in Vocational-Education Programs” ([Exhibit B](#)), which outlined federal reforms enabling students to earn industry certifications and degrees. Mr. Bacon reported that Frank Woodbeck, Director, Research and Analysis Bureau, Information Development and Processing Division, Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR), finalized a contract with ACT, Inc. to bring the Work Keys Program, which measures work place math, reading, and problem solving skills, to our students.
- Chair Bobzien stated this subject will be discussed by the ACT, Inc. and the College Board representatives at the June 14, 2012, meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2012

- The Committee **APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ACTION:**

ASSEMBLYMAN STEWART MOVED TO APPROVE THE “SUMMARY MINUTES AND ACTION REPORT” OF THE FEBRUARY 16, 2012, MEETING HELD IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SENATOR DENIS, AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

PRESENTATIONS CONCERNING THE NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION (NSHE)

Overview of Current Issues in the NSHE, Including Participation in the Complete College America Initiative

- Daniel J. Klaich, J.D., Chancellor, and Crystal M. Abba, Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs, NSHE, presented a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Complete College America” ([Exhibit C](#)).
- Ms. Abba presented an overview of the Complete College America (CCA) Alliance, and Nevada’s participation. She stated in order to fulfill the pledge made by the Governor’s Office and NSHE to make college completion a top priority for the State, the following commitments must be enacted:
 - ü Commit to increase graduation by 1,064 students each year.
 - ü Commit to implement the following:
 - Ensure all students are ready to start and succeed in freshman credit courses;
 - Redesign remediation efforts to substantially improve success;
 - Increase the number of students completing on-time;
 - Develop new, shorter, and faster pathways to degrees and credentials of value in the labor market;
 - Utilize available financial resources to improve incentives to students and colleges for progress and completion; and
 - Provide data for measuring progress by continuing to submit extensive amounts of data to CCA for the development of reliable reports that will affect future policy decisions.

Ms. Abba reported Nevada has adopted new initiatives such as the 120-Credit Degree Programs, Low Yield Programs, and Remediation Reform designed to cultivate a “culture of completion” and graduate more students.

In response to Assemblyman Stewart’s inquiry regarding what classes would be eliminated due to the reduction in the number of credits to graduate, Ms. Abba explained the determination will be made at the institution level not the system level and that the decisions will go into effect Fall 2012.

Responding to Senator Denis, Ms. Abba confirmed that high school graduates entering college with college credits are graduating at higher levels.

Discussion ensued between Assemblyman Munford and Ms. Abba regarding the student remediation process. Ms. Abba explained students may need to take an accuplacer test to determine competency levels, which determines if remedial classes are required. She said the classes must be paid for and no college level credit is given for them.

Report on the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship Program

- Crystal M. Abba, provided a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “The Millennium Scholarship and Investing in the Nevada System of Higher Education” ([Exhibit C-1](#)) which provided background information concerning current and past eligibility requirements, as directed by legislation, and the status of funding to support the Program. She stated data collected for the Program indicated that Millennium Scholars are:

- Ø Less likely to require remediation;
- Ø More likely to persist in college; and
- Ø More likely to graduate.

Ms. Abba reported that over 71,000 Nevadan students have received the Millennium Scholarship and that the Program helped increase Nevada’s college student participation rate in 2004 to 43.1 percent of Nevada high school graduates. She noted the 2010 rate has dropped to 37.7 percent due to the decline of the monetary value of the Scholarship. Ms. Abba reported that since 2000, eligible students who accessed the Scholarship declined from 76.9 percent to 58.7 percent. She reiterated this finding is most likely due to the decline of the monetary value of the Scholarship.

In response to Senator Denis’ inquiry if students might be hindered from signing up for college classes if receipt of the Scholarship cannot be assured until the end of summer, Ms. Abba stated she hoped they would enroll anyway, and that it is permissible for an eligible student to utilize the Scholarship in non-continuous semesters.

- Ms. Abba stated NSHE’s position is for an increase in the per-credit value of the Scholarship.

There was discussion between Senator Denis, Ms. Abba, and Chancellor Klaich regarding incentives for more students to enroll in college. Ms. Abba stated analysis has not been made, but increasing the \$80 per-credit that is currently being reimbursed would be helpful. Chancellor Klaich added that changing the eligibility from the minimum 12 credits to 15 credits per semester would be more of an incentive for students to progress to a degree and graduate more quickly. Ms. Abba opined that Nevada students may attend out-of-state colleges due to the reduced value of the Scholarship.

Discussion ensued between Assemblyman Munford, Ms. Abba, and Chancellor Klaich regarding any incentives in the Scholarship for students who are majoring in education to become teachers. Chancellor Klaich stated there have been discussions in the past about eligibility requirements for certain disciplines; however, the Legislature determined those should not be set and NSHE supports that decision. Assemblyman Munford suggested there should be incentives for students who seek a teaching position in Nevada. Ms. Abba added that the State does award a \$5,000 Kenny C. Guinn Memorial Millennium Scholarship each year to one college senior majoring in education who will teach in Nevada.

- Assemblyman Stewart observed our State has two goals: (1) to graduate as many Nevadans as possible; and (2) for these students to stay in Nevada and benefit the State.

In response to Assemblyman Stewart's inquiry if NSHE has been tracking graduates who stay in Nevada or re-locate, Ms. Abba stated this data, as well as tracking the type of workforce the graduates enter, will now be collected because of the approval of Senate Bill 449 (Chapter 397, *Statutes of Nevada 2011*). She added that this data will be available by the 2013 Session.

- Steve G. George, Chief of Staff, Office of the State Treasurer and Reba Coombs, Executive Director of the Millennium Scholarship, provided a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled "Gov. Guinn Millennium Scholarship Program" ([Exhibit D](#)), and pointed out that S.B. 220 (Chapter 19, *Statutes of Nevada 2011*) created the Kenny C. Guinn Memorial Millennium Scholarship.

Mr. George outlined the provisions of the award for eligible students:

- Ø A lifetime award of \$10,000;
- Ø Available for six years after high school graduation;
- Ø Paid on a semester-by-semester basis; and
- Ø A maximum award of \$960 per semester (\$80 per unit for a maximum of 12 units per semester).

Mr. George stated that since the inception of the Program through 2012, 102,447 students have been eligible to receive the Scholarship, 71,318 students utilized it, and currently 21,082 students are receiving funding. He stated the total amount distributed to students to date is \$271,421,669.

Mr. George reported on the degrees earned to date, Scholarship utilization rates and revenues, and the current trust fund balance. He noted that as requirements, such as a higher grade point average, to receive the Scholarship have increased, more students have actually become eligible.

There was discussion between Assemblyman Stewart and Mr. George concerning funds needed next session to continue the Millennium Scholarship. Mr. George stated that

based on the tobacco settlement payments, the Scholarship is in no immediate danger for several years.

In response to Senator Denis' inquiry concerning the possibility of supplementing the tobacco payments to increase the amount of the award for covering the cost of college tuition, Mr. George responded that an increase would benefit students, however, the issue is finding a funding mechanism.

Responding to Assemblywoman Dondero Loop's inquiry regarding why the eligibility for the Scholarship has risen while the percent of utilization has declined, Crystal M. Abba, previously identified, responded that a formal study has not been made, but several years ago there was conversation on grade inflation during a legislative session.

- Chair Bobzien commented this would be a point of conversation for the future.

In response to Assemblyman Stewart's question if the Scholarship requirements and funding should remain as is, Chancellor Klaich answered that beside the wish for additional funding, NSHE prefers the non-budgetary requirements of the Program remain the same so that parents and students can understand them from year-to-year.

Report on the Interim Committee to Study the Funding of Higher Education (Senate Bill 374, Chapter 375, Statutes of Nevada 2011)

- Melinda Martini, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB), submitted Senate Bill 374 (Chapter 375, *Statutes of Nevada 2011*) which created the Study ([Exhibit E](#)).
- Alexander Haartz, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB, provided a document titled "Report on the Interim Committee to Study the Funding of Higher Education" ([Exhibit F](#)). Mr. Haartz reported on the makeup and duties for the Study, past meeting actions, and the plans for future meetings. He noted the measure requires the Study to: 1) look at issues of remediation; 2) reward institutions for achieving defined goals for graduating students; and 3) the duties of the hired consultant to recommend best practices for consideration by the 2013 Legislature.

Mr. Haartz stated there was considerable discussion at a recent meeting regarding the alternative funding formula model that NSHE has proposed. He reported that based on the discussion, two subcommittees were formed to review the methodology and create a mechanism for local support for the community colleges.

- Chancellor Klaich, previously identified, provided a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled "An Alternative Formula, Funding the Nevada System of Higher Education" ([Exhibit G](#)). He voiced his concerns regarding the inequitable treatment of institutions within the system based on type or geographical location which he opined undermines the credibility of the formula. Chancellor Klaich stated the

current funding formula is complex and funding requests should not be based on it. He urged the Interim Committee to Study the Funding of Higher Education to develop a formula that is simple and transparent to graduate more students and keep them in Nevada. Chancellor Klaich stated a compact must be made so that students and parents will know what their fair share of higher education should be.

Chancellor Klaich submitted a report titled “A New Model for Funding Higher Education in Nevada” ([Exhibit G-1](#)) emphasizing Appendix C, a formula funding proposal chart. Chancellor Klaich said that this formula is critical to an overall package of reform to offer higher education in the 21st century.

- Assemblyman Stewart commended Chancellor Klaich on efforts to bring equity to the system, rewarding hard work, attracting out-of-state students, protecting small colleges with an administrative level of funding, and realizing the mission of the community college.

In response to Senator Denis’ inquiry, Chancellor Klaich stated part of the model allows campuses to retain their fees and tuition, but more needs to be done to provide affordable higher education.

- Chair Bobzien commented there have been discussions among his colleagues to reorganize Nevada’s colleges into a community college system similar to Arizona. He noted there is tremendous opportunity for the universities in Nevada to coordinate economic development programs to benefit our State.

In response to Chair Bobzien’s inquiry, Chancellor Klaich stated drivers have been built in the formula that recognize the difference between universities and colleges and it funds them appropriately for their missions. He commented that colleges and universities must be in close contact with local businesses. Chancellor Klaich repudiated the concept of splitting the systems. He opined funding could be accomplished without separating the systems.

REPORT ON THE RELATIONSHIP OF STUDENTS' EIGHTH GRADE ACHIEVEMENT TEST PERFORMANCE TO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

- Mary L. Peterson, Senior Program Associate, WestEd, provided a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “How Washoe Students’ Graduation Outcomes Relate to Earlier Mathematics Achievement” ([Exhibit H](#)), which examined the relationship between math proficiency and high school graduation.

She demonstrated how the Washoe County School District (WCSD): (1) uses data and research; (2) recognizes that assessments in early schooling reflect high school graduation outcomes; and (3) uses data to help teachers identify students who need assistance. Ms. Peterson stated most of the students who passed the eighth grade exam in mathematics graduated from high school. She added that most students who did not pass the exam did not graduate from high school. Ms. Peterson stated achievement tests in mathematics in the eighth grade predicted with 75 percent accuracy those students who would graduate high school.

- Andrea L. Lash, Senior Research Scientist, Regional Educational Laboratory West, expanded on how data was evaluated for the WCSD. She stated that because of the availability of longitudinal data, student achievement can be monitored over time and predicted outcomes can be made.
- Ben Hayes, Director of Research and Evaluation, WCSD, commented that the research supports a framework to serve students along a pathway towards graduation, helps to develop a better risk index, builds stronger interventions, assists in preparing summer programs, and identifies third graders who are falling behind.

PRESENTATIONS ON P-16 COUNCILS

P-16 Councils: A National Perspective

- Jennifer Dounay Zinth, Senior Policy Analyst, Education Commission of the States (ECS), provided a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “P-16/P-20 Councils, A National Landscape.” She explained that different entities within each state take part in overseeing different levels of education. Ms. Dounay Zinth reported there are presently 22 states with a P-16 or P-20 Council. She stated these Councils operate through legislation and voluntary collaboration across agencies and seek to create a unified single system that addresses all Pre-K to Masters and Professional degree programs. Ms. Dounay Zinth noted the focus of the Councils is on longitudinal data systems, teacher and leader effectiveness, and college-and-career-readiness. She listed the following “Best Practices” for appropriation of resources: (1) having a dedicated staff member; (2) ensuring sufficient funding is available; and (3) considering support from external sources such as business groups, foundations, and federal grants. (Please see [Exhibit I](#), [Exhibit I-1](#), and [Exhibit I-2](#).)

In response to Senator Denis’ inquiry, Ms. Dounay Zinth stated that P-16/P-20 Councils were key in making policy changes in the longitudinal data systems, school counselors, and the level of professional development and staff. She pointed out Indiana’s Council as

an example for building college and career curriculum standards and assessments which has improved the college-going rate in Indiana from a ranking of 40th to 10th.

Report on Nevada's P-16 Advisory Council, Including the Status of Compliance With the Governor's Executive Order 2011-17—Directing the Council to Review Education Data Systems

- Senator Barbara K. Cegavske, Clark County Senatorial District No. 8, offered a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Nevada P-16 Advisory Council.” She introduced members of the Council in attendance, stated that members have collected information for the Council to consider, and noted that subcommittees will be working on issues the Governor requested the Council to complete.
- Judy Osgood, Policy Analyst and Agency Liaison, Office of the Governor, offered a copy of the Governor's Executive Order 2011-17 signed October 7, 2011. She stated the Executive Order is the homework assignment for the P-16 Council, due August 1, 2012, to make recommendations for the design and implementation of a quality, statewide longitudinal educational data system to track student and educator data from early childhood through post-secondary levels of education. Ms. Osgood stated the Governor anticipates the recommendations will assist with bill draft requests and the budget for the next legislative session. She referred to an article by the *Data Quality Campaign* and pointed out how quality educational data is recognized as a valuable tool for informed decisions to improve student achievement and a condition for receiving State Fiscal Stabilization Funds as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.
- Senator Cegavske listed the recommendations the Council must make; work the Council has completed since the Executive Order; and the proposed vision and mission for the longitudinal data system for Nevada's P-16 Council. She noted the P-16 will have bill draft recommendations for the next legislative session. She stated the Council's title has been informally renamed to “Nevada's P-20 Council.”
- Ms. Osgood submitted a document titled “Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems, Announcement of the FY12 Competition.”
- Senator Cegavske outlined the next steps for Nevada's P-16 Council from a Fact Sheet titled “The P-16 Advisory Council.” She stated in the past the P-16 Council had many members with different visions, questions, and areas to address and commented that the Governor has decided to focus on one issue at a time. (Please see [Exhibit J](#), [Exhibit J-1](#), [Exhibit J-2](#), [Exhibit J-3](#), and [Exhibit J-4](#).)

Responding to Chair Bobzien's inquiry regarding any discussion about the next assignment, Senator Cegavske stated that currently Council's efforts will affect other entities in our State, such as the Economic Forum, and opined the Governor may request the Council focus on this issue. She offered to inquire about any future projections.

In response to Senator Denis' inquiry regarding the lack of an early childhood representative in the P-16 Council, Senator Cegavske stated the Council will vote on a non-voting member to represent early childhood in the near future.

- Ms. Osgood noted that statute allows the Council to create committees to carry out duties. She said non-Council members may serve on those Committees and that the Council has been aggressively seeking out necessary stakeholders to provide input.

Responding to Assemblyman Munford's inquiry, Senator Cegavske stated the State Superintendent is a non-voting member who is committed and provides direction to the Council.

REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COLLEGE AND WORKFORCE READINESS DEFINITION

(As directed by Chair Bobzien, this agenda item was taken out of order.)

- Michael Raponi, Education Programs Director, Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education (CTE), Nevada's Department of Education (NDE), stated that a student is college-ready upon successful completion of course work for an advanced diploma and two years of a foreign language or demonstrates proficiency in a foreign language. He stated a CTE Advisory Council was formed in December 2011, with membership of key stakeholders from economic and workforce development, representation from secondary and postsecondary education, employers, and the Office of the Governor. Mr. Raponi reported that the Advisory Council voted to develop a combined definition for college-and-career-readiness, which was recently approved by the Nevada State Board of Education to establish a task force to draft the proposed regulations with multiple pathways for career-readiness. He stated nominations for the task force were forwarded to the Superintendent's office and the first meeting will convene soon.

PRESENTATION OF NEVADA'S CTE PROGRAM, INCLUDING THE CTE SKILLS ASSESSMENT

- Michael Raponi, Education Programs Director, CTE, NDE, presented a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled "Learning that works for Nevada, CTE" ([Exhibit K](#)), which included a new national campaign title and logo adopted to better market the intent, mission, purpose, and effectiveness of CTE. Mr. Raponi provided the following reasons for the recent decline in student participation in CTE:
 - Ø In 2009 the Clark County School District eliminated eighth period, drastically reducing the number of available hours for students to take elective credits;
 - Ø The economic downturn produced program closures in CTE; and
 - Ø Data collection efforts have been modified for increased reliability.

Mr. Raponi offered excerpts from the "Nevada Career and Technical Education Course Catalog, School Year 2012-2013" which recommends course sequences and alignments for every CTE course in the State, a project he noted took a year to complete, and

a document titled “Employability Skills For Career Readiness Standards” which is Nevada’s version of the 21 Employability Skills Standards based on three domains: personal qualities and people skills, technology knowledge and skills, and professional knowledge and skills. (Please see [Exhibit K-1](#) and [Exhibit K-2](#).)

He stated previously CTE had used two accountability systems, SAIN (Automated System of Accountability Information for Nevada), and CTERS (Career and Technical Education Reporting System), but in the 2012–13 school year, all reporting will be drawn from SAIN, to avoid data discrepancies gathered from districts.

Mr. Raponi compared State and federal funding. He noted concern for future funding from the Perkins Act (P. L. 98-524).

In response to Chair Bobzien’s inquiry regarding legislative assistance to coordinate with stakeholder groups, Mr. Raponi stated he had concerns about the funding needed to form collaboratives in our rural State. He commented on concerns for future funding for student employability tests, which he noted are currently funded by State and federal grant monies.

Responding to Assemblyman Munford’s inquiry, Mr. Raponi stated there are six CTE schools in Las Vegas and one in Reno. He noted that CTE is delivered through comprehensive high schools.

In response to Assemblyman Munford’s inquiry, Mr. Raponi confirmed that students enrolled in CTE schools have a lower dropout rate.

Discussion ensued between Senator Denis, Assemblywoman Dondero Loop, and Mr. Raponi regarding how applied skills and academic skills are taught. Mr. Raponi stated the CTE program is hands-on; students apply technical performance level skills interwoven with work ethic, team work, and critical thinking skills. Senator Denis commented these essential skills should be taught in regular classes. Mr. Raponi referenced the *Nevada Administrative Code* 389.555, which states any school may teach a course in employability skills. Assemblywoman Dondero Loop attested, as a former educator, that life skills are taught every day as teachers work out problems on playgrounds, promote team work, and administer assignments.

REPORT ON NEVADA’S LABOR MARKET—PROSPECTIVE JOB GROWTH BY INDUSTRY

- William Anderson, Chief Economist, Research and Analysis Bureau, Information Development and Processing Division, Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation, presented a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Nevada Labor Market Briefing” ([Exhibit L](#)). He provided a summary of Nevada’s current economic improvements, which reflect taxable sales have risen for approximately 19 consecutive months. Mr. Anderson stated the unemployment rate peaked around 14 percent in October 2010 and was at 12 percent in March 2012. He reported the typical job gain from February to March each year is 3,700 and noted this year the gain was at 8,700. Mr. Anderson said Lyon and Nye Counties have the highest unemployment rates in the State.

Mr. Anderson pointed out that job projections into the year 2018 indicate:

- Jobs with higher-level training requirements are expected to grow the fastest;
- Jobs requiring a two-year associate's degree are projected to show the most growth in percentage terms; and
- The largest number of available job openings will continue to be found in occupations requiring on-the-job training (about 4,800 per year).

Mr. Anderson referenced a copy of a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled "Nevada Industry and Occupational Projections Summary" ([Exhibit L-1](#)). He stated the traditional engines of growth for Nevada are leisure, hospitality, and construction, but these may not be the main drivers for future jobs. Mr. Anderson submitted a bi-annual pamphlet of employment projections titled "Nevada's Top 50 Jobs" ([Exhibit L-2](#)) and stated jobs that require some moderate-term training will be increasing over the next five years. He reported 4 of the 20 jobs listed in that section are in the healthcare sector. Mr. Anderson stated that the data projects very few jobs will require a bachelor's degree or higher, and many of these new jobs are consistent with the sectorial focus of the State's economic development efforts.

There was discussion between Senator Denis and Mr. Anderson regarding the 170,000 jobs lost during the recession. Mr. Anderson commented he was hesitant to comment on the Governor's goals. He noted construction in Nevada historically had accounted for approximately 12 percent of employment. Mr. Anderson opined future employment growth may be more modest but more sustainable than in the past.

PRESENTATIONS ON EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Early Childhood Education Programs: A National Perspective

- Stephanie Rose, Assistant Policy Analyst, ECS, provided a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “P–3 Landscape, What States Are Doing in Early Childhood Education” ([Exhibit M](#)), and a report titled “Third Grade Literacy Policies: Identification, Intervention, Retention” ([Exhibit M-1](#)). She defined “P–3” education as children prenatal; “early care” as birth to age five; and “Pre-K” as full or half-day programs that include three and/or four-year olds. Ms. Rose stated early learning is important for the following reasons:

- Ø 80 percent of brain development occurs before age six;
- Ø Students not reading proficiently by the third grade are four times more likely to drop out; and
- Ø Long-term benefits of P–3 are increased incomes, higher graduation rates, increased college attendance, and home ownership.

She commented that 39 states offer state-funded Pre-K and that the largest providers are private schools. Ms. Rose stated funding varies widely across the states. She reported that Nevada funds \$2,500 per child and the national average is approximately \$4,000. Ms. Rose noted Nevada is 1 of 45 states that have created Early Learning Councils to coordinate early childhood education (ECE) funding and standards.

Ms. Rose stated quality and access are important for P–3 to be successful with teacher qualifications, curriculum, and standards as indicators for success. Ms. Rose mentioned few state programs serve three-year-old children and most programs begin with four-year-old children.

She presented a successful P–3 case study for Montgomery County, Maryland that incorporated the following:

- Ø Alignment of Pre–K through grade 12 standards;
- Ø Implemented full-day kindergarten beginning with highest needs students;
- Ø Created a common curriculum;
- Ø Provided ample professional development and peer mentoring;
- Ø Integrated technology and monitor progress of goals;
- Ø Involved parents and the community; and
- Ø Active recruitment of students for Pre–K and Kindergarten.

Responding to Assemblyman Munford’s inquiry regarding the low turnout of attendance of three-year-olds in Pre–K programs in the lower income areas, and if those students qualify for Head Start, Ms. Rose explained that many state programs do not fund Pre-K for this age or families may not be aware it is available. She said for those families who do enroll three-year-olds, Head Start programs usually have very limited space in the Pre–K programs for that age group.

Discussion ensued between Senator Denis and Ms. Rose regarding scores, access, research, and funding. Ms. Rose stated Montgomery County in Maryland provides full-day Pre-K and full-day kindergarten to any low income student by using Title I and Head Start funding. She noted that the children enter first grade with essential literacy skills of 90 percent. Ms. Rose stated that Colorado is currently holding hearings on consolidating all early childhood services into one department to “free-up” funding.

Reports of the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

Review of Nevada’s 2011 Application for the Federal Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Program: How Nevada Scored

- Margot Chappel, Director, Head Start Collaboration and Early Childhood Systems Office, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Anna Severens, Education Programs Professional, ECE Program, NDE, presented a report titled “Race To The Top Early Learning Challenge, How Nevada Scored: Lessons Learned and Recommendations” ([Exhibit N](#)). Ms. Chappel reviewed the score results of the Application and reported that Nevada’s highest score was a “B+” for demonstrating past commitment to early learning and development. She said the lowest score received was an “F,” for the lack of aligning and coordinating early learning and development across the State.

Ms. Chappel offered a summary titled “Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) Legislative Recommendations to Promote School Readiness” ([Exhibit N-1](#)) that points out improvements to compete and receive maximum funding to support ECE. She outlined and elaborated on the following initiatives from Nevada’s application for the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge (RTTT-ELC):

- Ø Adopt a common kindergarten entry assessment (KEA) linked with the State’s longitudinal data system for education;
- Ø Develop an early childhood data system to increase program quality and improve school readiness;
- Ø Improve and streamline State oversight of ECE;
- Ø Implement a statewide tiered quality rating and improvement system for programs tied to child outcomes;
- Ø Improve access to high-quality programs for young children with high needs; and
- Ø Develop a high-quality ECE workforce.

Responding to Assemblyman Stewart inquiry, Ms. Chappel stated it was frustrating to be marked down for not having Pre-K standards, when in fact we do. She remarked that there is no appeal process, and Nevada ranked 29 out of the 37 applicants.

In response to Senator Denis' inquiry regarding discussion between the Advisory Council and the P-16 Council to implement a coordinated early childhood data system, Ms. Chappel stated that Judy Osgood, previously identified, has kept the Advisory Council informed and they intend to remain in contact with the P-16 Council.

There was discussion between Chair Bobzien, and Ms. Chappel regarding the recommendation to establish a State Office of Early Learning. Chair Bobzien commented it was a topic of conversation during the 2011 Legislative Session and inquired what the discussion and receptivity with the providers has been. Ms. Chappel stated there have been informal discussions with the Governor's Office and there "appears to be a consensus" that an Office of Early Learning would be preferred in order to establish and align all the programs, data collection, methodologies, administration, policies, and procedures. Chair Bobzien stated that the "consensus" would be a key for preparing for the next legislative session.

Discussion ensued between Senator Denis, Ms. Chappel, and Ms. Dounay Zinth, previously identified, regarding how many states have an Office of Early Learning. Ms. Chappel stated she did not have that data, but it was her understanding that equal numbers of Councils are managed at the Departments of Health and Human Services and Departments of Education, and that a small number operate out of Offices of the Governor. Ms. Dounay Zinth remarked she is not aware of a comprehensive count and noted an increase in the number of Offices of Early Learning. She stated in recent years Nebraska, Ohio, and Washington State have established an Office of Early Childhood Education or an Office of Early Care and Education. She commented that in Ohio the Office operates from the Department of Education. Ms. Dounay Zinth stated Nebraska operates separately from the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Education.

- Chair Bobzien requested staff to obtain current information on other states that have an Office of Early Learning.

Update on the Status of a Needs Assessment for a Kindergarten Readiness Assessment and Childhood Data System in Nevada

- Margot Chappel, Director, Head Start Collaboration and Early Childhood Systems Office, DHHS, provided a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled "Introduction to KEDS* Project and Group Interview" and a document titled "Project Summary, Kindergarten Readiness Assessment & Early Childhood Data System." (Please see [Exhibit O](#) and [Exhibit O-1](#).) Ms. Chappel stated that focus groups in the Washoe and Clark County School Districts are working toward a common KEA in the early childhood data system. She noted their goals to:
 - Determine Nevada's feasibility and plan to implement effective data practices that link to a statewide early childhood development data system and support

early childhood educators in an effort to understand and utilize child assessment data to improve programs, curriculum, and environments.

- Determine Nevada's feasibility and plan to administer a common, statewide KEA that generates data which educators are trained to use in order to improve program outcomes for children.

Ms. Chappel stated focus groups will build on Nevada's planning in the RTTT-ELC to link the 17 county stakeholders and create a statewide plan from specific needs assessment reports for submission in June 2012. She stated the Early Childhood Advisory Councils are federally funded through September 2013 by the American Recovery Reinvestment Act of 2009 and will be important for the consideration of establishing an Office of Early Learning; and important for including a provision to establish a public private partnership that would enable the Council to raise private funds.

Responding to Assemblyman Munford's inquiries, Ms. Chappel stated there are school sites where parents can pay for a half-day of kindergarten, and that the Head Start programs contract with childcare development fund programs providing full-day/full-year care for families that qualify. Ms. Chappel stated she did not have specific information to report, but she would provide it through staff.

Report of the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council's Survey Results Concerning Possible Modification of Assembly Bill 546 of the 76th Legislative Session, Vetoed by the Governor

- Margot Chappel, Director, Head Start Collaboration and Early Childhood Systems Office, DHHS, stated she is currently surveying members of the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council regarding A.B. 546 and reported the focus of the responses has been to:
 - Ø Establish goals for training;
 - Ø Develop standards for professional development in the Pre-K contents standards;
 - Ø Create and adopt a model for highly effective teachers;
 - Ø Conduct a training module with childcare facilities;
 - Ø Examine the number of persons employed; and
 - Ø Examine the regulation of training hours.
- Chair Bobzien stated that the survey is important to determine what concepts can be supported. He said there is a difference between specific language that providers must commit to versus the concept and that providers need to understand that in order to improve the quality of ECE in the State, a commitment will need to be made.
- Ms. Chappel opined the survey may determine misunderstandings that were underlying in portions of the bill.

In response to Ms. Chappel's request for specific ideas from the Committee on how to proceed to revise the bill, Chair Bobzien offered his assistance and stated this issue will be discussed at a future Committee meeting.

Report of Nevada's Award of the Federal Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy Grant

- Anna Severens, Education Programs Professional, ECE Program, NDE, responded to earlier discussions about Pre-K education. She noted that: (1) nationally 28 percent of four-year-olds are enrolled in a state Pre-K program; and (2) due to limited State funding, Nevada's enrollment is at 1.6 percent, currently serving 300 children in ten school districts and one community organization. Ms. Severens stated indicators show gains for participants including 86 percent to 92 percent. She added that over 50 percent of the participants are Spanish speaking children. Ms. Severens stated the achievement gap that existed prior to the start of the 2001 Nevada ECE program has been eliminated for children in grade four.

Ms. Severens provided a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled "Nevada State PreK: RtT-ELC Recommendation: Improving Access to High-Quality Programs for Young Children with High Needs" ([Exhibit P](#)) and commented that Nevada was one of six states that received the Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy Grant. She acknowledged the staff members assigned to meet all accountability and program requirements for the five-year \$14 million grant. Ms. Severens itemized the grant's allocation:

- Ø 15 percent for birth to Pre-K;
- Ø 40 percent for elementary schools;
- Ø 20 percent for middle schools; and
- Ø 20 percent for high schools.

Ms. Severens provided a copy of the revised Pre-K Standards ([Exhibit P-1](#)).

- Chair Bobzien stated he appreciated Ms. Severens' reference to State Common Core Standards.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Chair Bobzien called for public comment; however no testimony was presented.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nita Barnes
Senior Research Secretary

Melinda Martini
Senior Research Analyst

APPROVED BY:

Assemblyman David P. Bobzien, Chair

Date: _____

LIST OF EXHIBITS

[Exhibit A](#) is the “Meeting Notice and Agenda” provided by Melinda Martini, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB).

[Exhibit B](#) is an e-mail dated April 23, 2012, to Joseph L. Goins, from Joseph L. Goins, Executive Vice President, WIN Learning, regarding Education Dept. Proposes Reforms in Vocational-Education Programs, an article by Emma Roller, offered by Ray Bacon, President, Nevada Manufacturers Association, Carson City.

[Exhibit C](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Complete College America,” dated April 26, 2012, prepared by the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE), submitted by Daniel J. Klaich, J.D., Chancellor, NSHE, and Crystal M. Abba, Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs, NSHE.

[Exhibit C-1](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “The Millennium Scholarship and Investing in the Nevada System of Higher Education,” dated April 26, 2012, prepared by NSHE, provided by Daniel J. Klaich, J.D., Chancellor, NSHE, and Crystal M. Abba, Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs, NSHE.

[Exhibit D](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Gov. Guinn Millennium Scholarship Program,” dated April 2012, prepared by the Office of the State Treasurer, offered by Steve G. George, Chief of Staff, Office of the State Treasurer.

[Exhibit E](#) is a copy of Senate Bill 374 (Chapter 375, *Statutes of Nevada 2011*), provided by Melinda Martini, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division, LCB.

[Exhibit F](#) is a document titled “Report on the Interim Committee to Study the Funding of Higher Education (Senate Bill 374, Chapter 375, *Statutes of Nevada 2011*),” dated April 26, 2012, prepared by Alex Haartz, Program Analyst, Staff, Committee to Study the Funding of Higher Education, LCB.

[Exhibit G](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “An Alternative Formula, Funding the Nevada System of Higher Education,” dated April 26, 2012, prepared by NSHE, submitted by Daniel J. Klaich, J.D., Chancellor, NSHE, and Crystal M. Abba, Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs, NSHE.

[Exhibit G-1](#) is a report titled “A New Model for Funding Higher Education in Nevada,” prepared by NSHE, offered by Daniel J. Klaich, J.D., Chancellor, NSHE, and Crystal M. Abba, Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs, NSHE.

[Exhibit H](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “How Washoe Students’ Graduation Outcomes Relate to Earlier Mathematics Achievement,” dated April 23, 2012, prepared by Mary Peterson, Senior Program Associate, WestEd, Andrea Lash, Senior Research Scientist, WestEd, and Ben Hayes, Director of Research and Evaluation, Washoe County School District (WCSD), Reno.

[Exhibit I](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “P-16/P-20 Councils, A National Landscape,” dated April 26, 2012, offered by Jennifer Dounay Zinth, Senior Policy Analyst, Education Commission of the States (ECS), Denver, Colorado.

[Exhibit I-1](#) is a document titled “ECS Policy Brief, P-16, Landmines P-16/P-20 Councils Encounter—and How They Can Be Addressed (or Avoided Altogether),” dated November 2008, submitted by Jennifer Dounay, Project Manager, ECS’ High School Policy Center, Denver, Colorado.

[Exhibit I-2](#) is a worksheet titled “State P-16 and P-20 Council Considerations,” dated December 2008, prepared by Jennifer Dounay, Project Manager, ECS’ High School Policy Center, Denver, Colorado.

[Exhibit J](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Nevada P-16 Advisory Council,” offered by Senator Barbara K. Cegavske, Clark County Senatorial District No. 8, Las Vegas, and Judy Osgood, Policy Analyst and Agency Liaison, Office of the Governor.

[Exhibit J-1](#) is a copy of the State of Nevada Executive Order 2011-17 “Directing Nevada’s P-16 Advisory Council To Review Education Data Systems In This State,” dated October 7, 2011, presented by Judy Osgood, Policy Analyst and Agency Liaison, Office of the Governor.

[Exhibit J-2](#) is an article titled “Putting It All Together, Supporting Continuous Improvement in Education through Strategic Use of Data Systems,” by *Data Quality Campaign*, submitted by Judy Osgood, Policy Analyst and Agency Liaison, Office of the Governor.

[Exhibit J-3](#) is a report titled “Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems, Announcement of FY12 Competition,” by *Data Quality Campaign*, offered by Judy Osgood, Policy Analyst and Agency Liaison, Office of the Governor.

[Exhibit J-4](#) is a report titled “Fact Sheet, The P-16 Advisory Council,” dated April 2012, by H. Pepper Sturm, Research Division, LCB, presented by Senator Barbara K. Cegavske, Clark County Senatorial District No. 8, Las Vegas.

[Exhibit K](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Learning that works for Nevada, CTE,” dated April 26, 2012, by Nevada Department of Education (NDE), Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education, presented by Michael Raponi, Education Programs Director.

[Exhibit K-1](#) is sample pages of a document titled “Nevada Career and Technical Education Course Catalog School Year 2012–2013,” prepared by the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education, NDE, provided by Michael Raponi, Education Programs Director, Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education, NDE.

[Exhibit K-2](#) is a document titled “Employability Skills For Career Readiness Standards,” prepared by the Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education, NDE, submitted by Michael Raponi, Education Programs Director, Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education, NDE.

[Exhibit L](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Nevada Labor Market Briefing, Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation,” dated April 26, 2012, by Frank R. Woodbeck, Director, and Bill Anderson, Chief Economist, Research and Analysis Bureau, Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR), offered by William Anderson, Chief Economist, Research and Analysis Bureau, Information Development and Processing Division, DETR.

[Exhibit L-1](#) is a document titled “Nevada Industry and Occupational Projections Summary,” dated April 26, 2012, by Bill Anderson, Chief Economist, and Frank R. Woodbeck, Director, Research and Analysis Bureau, DETR, provided by William Anderson, Chief Economist, Research and Analysis Bureau, Information Development and Processing Division, DETR.

[Exhibit L-2](#) is a brochure titled “Nevada’s Top 50 Jobs,” compiled by the Research and Analysis Bureau, DETR, submitted by William Anderson, Chief Economist, Research and Analysis Bureau, Information Development and Processing Division, DETR.

[Exhibit M](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “P-3 Landscape, What States Are Doing in ECE,” dated April 26, 2012, offered by Stephanie Rose, Assistant Policy Analyst, ECS, Denver, Colorado.

[Exhibit M-1](#) is a report titled “Third Grade Literacy Policies: Identification, Intervention, Retention,” dated March 2012, by Stephanie Rose and Karen Schimke, ECS, provided by Stephanie Rose, Assistant Policy Analyst, ECS, Denver, Colorado.

[Exhibit N](#) is a report titled “Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge, How Nevada Scored: Lessons Learned and Recommendations,” dated January 2012, submitted by Margot Chappel, Director, Head Start Collaboration and Early Childhood Systems Office, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

[Exhibit N-1](#) is a report titled “Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council, Legislative Recommendations to Promote School Readiness,” dated April 17, 2012, presented by Margot Chappel, Director, Head Start Collaboration and Early Childhood Systems Office, DHHS.

[Exhibit O](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Introduction to KEDS* Project and Group Interview,” offered by Margot Chappel, Director, Head Start Collaboration and Early Childhood Systems Office, DHHS.

[Exhibit O-1](#) is a report titled “Project Summary, Kindergarten Readiness Assessment & Early Childhood Data System,” Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council, presented by Margot Chappel, Director, Head Start Collaboration and Early Childhood Systems Office, DHHS.

[Exhibit P](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Nevada State PreK: RttT-ELC Recommendation: Improving Access to High-Quality Programs for Young Children with High Needs,” dated April 26, 2012, submitted by Anna Severens, Education Programs Professional, ECE Program, NDE.

[Exhibit P-1](#) is a booklet titled “Nevada Pre–Kindergarten Standards, Revised and Approved: 2010, Building a Foundation for School Readiness and Success in Pre K–12 and Beyond,” 2010 Pre-K Content Standards Revision Committee, provided by Anna Severens, Education Programs Professional, ECE Program, NDE.

This set of “Summary Minutes and Action Report” is supplied as an informational service. Exhibits in electronic format may not be complete. Copies of the complete exhibits, other materials distributed at the meeting, and the audio record are on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, Carson City, Nevada. You may contact the Library online at www.leg.state.nv.us/lcb/research/library/feedbackmail.cfm or telephone: 775/684-6827.