

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
COMMISSION ON SCHOOL FUNDING  
January 16, 2026  
9:00 AM**

Office	Address	City	Room
Department of Education	7130 Amigo St.	Las Vegas	Room 165
Department of Education	101 North Carson St.	Carson City	Old Assembly Chambers
Department of Education	Virtual	Virtual	<a href="#">YouTube</a>

**Official Minutes Summary**

Please note that the meeting location in Las Vegas was reverted to the Department of Education at 2080 E. Flamingo after technical issues.

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Hobbs called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken:

- **Present:** Chair Hobbs, Member Mather, Member Reeves, Member Casey, Member Brune, Member King, Member Dayhoff, Member Ritchie, Member Stahlke, Member Mathers (participating remotely).
- **Absent:** Vice Chair Woodhouse
- **Notes:** A quorum was established. Vice Chair Woodhouse was absent. Several of her working group coordinator duties have been reassigned to other members.

**II. Public Comment Period #1**

- No public comment was provided in Carson City, Las Vegas, in writing, or via callers.

**III. Approval of Consent Agenda (Action Item)**

- The consent agenda included the minutes from the December 12th meeting were adopted unanimously

**IV. Report from the Nevada Department of Education (NDE)**

- **Presenter:** Megan Peterson, Deputy Superintendent, NDE
- **Updates:**
  - All three contracts in support of the Commission (including the Applied Analysis contract for the education index and optimal funding revenues analysis) are fully operational as of the Board of Examiners (BoE) meeting.
  - Research has begun regarding the process for the Commission's Bill Draft Request (BDR) created through SB 460.
  - Work groups are continuing research, and the NDE is modeling requests to understand the implications of proposed changes. NDE is working to hire a new position to support the centralization of the over 500 reports identified previously and is working to modernize data collection systems, aiming for a data management system with a data lake and AI interface in the future.

## V. Working Group Updates

Coordinators provided progress reports on their respective working groups, with the goal of bringing closure to many items by the March/April timeframe.

- **Optimal Funding (Chair Hobbs):** Working on identifying the target level of funding; waiting on May National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) data, reviewing enrollment projections, and developing scenarios to generate revenue (focusing on property and sales taxes) to achieve the national average target.
- **Enrollment Trends (Cassandra Stahlke):** Focusing on the hold harmless provision (evaluating a trigger of 3-4% instead of 5%) and the exceptional enrollment growth adjustment (proposing a threshold change from 25% to 15%). They are also looking at long-term projections and modeling different hold harmless scenarios.
- **Tiered Allocation:** Planning one more meeting in February to bring recommendations in March. Topics include SB 231 (2023) funding, transportation treatment (charter school transportation and 4-year averages), capital costs, and Assembly Bill 398 (2025) funds.
- **Special Education:** Sent scenarios to NDE (Melissa) regarding identifying and accounting for special education. They are waiting for the consultants to review the data before scheduling the next meeting, targeting March for wrap-up.
- **Student Outcomes & Return on Investment (ROI) (Yolanda King/Mark Mathers):** The Student Outcomes and ROI committees have combined due to similarities in their tasks. They are working with WestEd to identify positive and negative outliers across the nation to understand what investments yield the best student outcomes. Targeted completion is April.
- **Reserve Analysis (Ryan Reeves):** Investigating the reserve caps on charter schools (some maintain 50-75% reserves) compared to districts. Discovered differences lie in facility and bond maintenance requirements for charter schools. Direction is leaning towards better planning and reporting to understand the purpose of these reserves.
- **Expenditure Reporting (Dusty Casey):** Examining the "life cycle" of school finance from budget building to final reporting. Found that accounting practices vary widely across the state. Hope to bring recommendations to align business rules and processes by March.

## VI. Weighted Funding Group Presentation (Discussion)

- **Presenters:** Kelsey Krausen (WestEd) and Dr. Amanda Brown (APA)
- **Topic 1: Student Counts:** The group reviewed different methods for counting students eligible for weighted funding (currently based on the prior year) to address funding volatility.
  - *Scenarios Presented:*
    - 1) Shift to current year count;
    - 2) 2-year average (current and prior);
    - 3) Greater of current or prior year.
  - *Discussion:* The Commission generally favored exploring Scenario 2 (2-year average) or Scenario 3 (greater of) to reduce volatility. Three additional scenarios were requested for future modeling: 3a (Greater of 2-year average or prior year), a 3-year average without the current year, and determining the feasibility of using the current year's validated October 1 count.

- **Topic 2: Stacked Weights:** The group discussed the potential of allowing students to receive multiple weights (e.g., English Language Learner (ELL) and Special Education) rather than just the highest single weight they qualify for.
  - *Discussion:* Commission members expressed interest in the concept but requested more research on which services actually overlap to avoid double-paying, exploring "proportional stacking" (discounting the second weight), and reviewing data on district-level compositions to see if a one-size-fits-all approach works. Consultants will return with more modeling next month.

## VII. Attendance Area Adjustments & NCEI (Information/Discussion)

- **Presenters:** Dr. Amanda Brown and Michaela Tonking (APA)
- **Topic:** Provided a refresher on the Nevada Cost of Education Index (NCEI) and attendance area adjustments.
- **NCEI:** Discussed the three types of regional cost adjustments (wage index, cost of living, cost of doing business) and highlighted that Nevada uses a wage index and cost of doing business index, currently set at 1.0 (no impact). Applied Analysis will bring future recommendations on methodology and implementation timing.
- **Attendance Areas:** Reviewed the history and criteria for attendance areas to address economies of scale in large, remote districts. The NDE confirmed they are working to implement the Commission's previous recommendations on attendance area criteria, allowing an exemptions process for districts negatively impacted.

## VIII. Bill Draft Request (BDR) Process (Information/Discussion)

- **Presenter:** Megan Peterson (NDE)
- **Topic:** Outlined the parameters and timeline for the Commission's BDR (authorized via SB 460).
  - *Parameters:* Must be single subject (K-12 Education), within the scope of NRS 387, and comprehensive upon initial drafting.
  - *Timeline:* Brainstorming in early Spring, draft sections in April/May, formal approval at the May 16th meeting, submit to LCB in June, and final submission deadline is September 1st.
  - *Action:* The Commission needs to start identifying priority items to include in the BDR.

## IX. Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Update (Action Item)

- **Presenters:** Ashley Greenwald and Kaci Fleetwood (Nevada Positive Behavioral Intervention System (PBIS) Technical Assistance Center, University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) and Deputy Superintendent Christy McGill (NDE)
- **Topic:** Provided an update on the implementation of MTSS across the state, outlining the core features, school/district/state responsibilities, and data showing that schools with high MTSS fidelity outperform those with low fidelity in academics, attendance, and behavior metrics. The program recently transitioned from federal to state funding (\$3M/year for two years).
- **Motion:** A motion was made and passed unanimously to confirm the Commission's strong and enthusiastic endorsement for MTSS and to encourage the interim legislative education committee to continue tangible support and funding.

## **X. Future Agenda Items**

- A request was made to establish a regular line of communication (e.g., updates) with the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education (CIEE), similar to when Vice Chair Woodhouse was active, especially ahead of BDR submissions.

## **XI. Public Comment Period #2**

- No public comment was provided in Carson City, Las Vegas, in writing, or via callers.

## **XII. Adjournment**

- Chair Hobbs adjourned the meeting at 2:28 PM.