




# **ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR FAMILY ENGAGEMENT: 2023 LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

**FEBRUARY 1, 2022 – FEBRUARY 1, 2023**



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## 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.

### 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](#).

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- April 18, 2022: At the April Council meeting, the Council heard a presentation on their legislative duties and responsibilities, which included an overview of this legislative requirement.
  - July 25, 2022: At the July Council meeting, the Council heard an overview of the district family engagement policy review process that was previously used to review and provide feedback to districts and their family engagement policy. The Council agreed to continue the review process for upcoming district family engagement policy reviews.
  - November 21, 2022: At the November Council meeting, the Council heard an overview of the State Board of Education’s family engagement policy.
  - December 12, 2022: At the December Council meeting, the Council elected to great 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](#).

- April 18, 2022: At the April Council meeting, the Council heard a presentation on their legislative duties and responsibilities, which included an overview of this legislative requirement.
- January 31, 2023: At the January meeting, the Council discussed possible legislative recommendations to make the report more available and accessible to 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.

- April 18, 2022: At the April Council meeting, the Council heard a presentation on their legislative duties and responsibilities, which included an overview of this legislative requirement.
- April 18, 2022: At the April Council meeting, the Council heard a presentation on the Nevada Department of Education’s Early Educator of the Year award. A component of the award’s criteria is the use of family engagement best practices in the early childhood education field. This includes, but is not limited to, two-way communication, building

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relationships with families, and an appreciation and respect for the diversity of the families they serve. These practices are included in [Nevada's Family Engagement Framework](#), guidance on a statewide approach to family engagement. Post hoc: Two Clark County educators were recognized as the recipients for the 2022 award. Carl Esteban, a pre-Kindergarten teacher, and Bonnie Toth, an infant-toddler teacher.

- June 20, 2022: At the June Council meeting, the Council heard an initiative by the Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement to develop a Nevada family engagement school recognition award. The award will seek to highlight and promote family engagement best practices occurring in Nevada schools on an annual basis. The award is planned to debut during the 2023-2024 school year.
- June 20, 2022: At the June Council meeting, the Council heard a presentation on [Nevada's Family Engagement Framework](#), which includes a toolkit that highlights family engagement best practices and strategies. Some of the family engagement practices highlighted in the toolkit are currently present in Nevada schools and recommended as a family engagement best practice.
- July 25, 2022: At the July Council meeting, the Council heard a presentation from the Institute for Educational Leadership on the community schools model. The community schools model is an evidence-based school improvement model where family engagement makes up one of the four key pillars. Reinvent Schools in the Clark County School District were identified as an entity that currently implements this model in 13 of their schools and a group in Washoe County plans to apply for the Full-Service Community Schools federal grant in September 2022. The University of Nevada, Reno and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas partnered and submitted their application for the federal grant in September 2022. Post hoc: The U.S. Department of Education did not grant the applicants the grant; however, the entities involved plan on applying the next time the grant is funded and opened again.
- July 25, 2022: At the July Council meeting, the Council heard an update regarding Nevada's Kindergarten transition work, which includes the piloting of the evidence-based practice in some of Nevada's school districts. The goal is to demonstrate why and how this evidence-based practice should be adopted on a statewide basis.
- November 21, 2022: At the November Council meeting, the Council was presented with a report on the results of the Nevada Family Engagement Summit. The Nevada Family Engagement Summit was a virtual, statewide event seeking to build the family engagement capacity of attendees. Sessions at the summit included the sharing of family engagement best practices occurring in Nevada.
- December 12, 2022: At the December Council meeting, the Council heard an overview of the newly updated National Parent Teacher Association Family-School Partnership Standards (Standards). The Standards are embedded in Nevada's Family Engagement

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Framework and promoted as best practice. The Standards are also embedded in the Nevada Educator Performance Framework, the statewide educator evaluation system.

## **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.

- April 18, 2022: At the April Council meeting, the Council heard a presentation on their legislative duties and responsibilities, which included an overview of this legislative requirement.
- June 1-3, 2022: The Council sent Council Vice Chair Tameka Henry to the 2022 National Community Schools and Family Engagement Conference to learn about family engagement strategies and practices in other states, like the community schools model, an evidence-based school improvement model where family engagement makes up one of the four key pillars.
- June 20, 2022: At the June Council meeting, the Council heard from Vice Chair Tameka Henry on her experience attending the 2022 National Community Schools and Family Engagement Conference and what she learned regarding out-of-state best practices, specifically the community schools model.
- June 20, 2022: At the June Council meeting, the Council heard a presentation on [Nevada's Family Engagement Framework](#), which includes a toolkit that highlights family engagement best practices. Some of the family engagement best practices highlighted in the toolkit are out-of-state family engagement best practices occurring outside Nevada.
- July 25, 2022: At the July Council meeting, the Council heard a presentation from the Institute for Educational Leadership on the community schools model. The community schools model is an evidence-based school improvement model where family engagement makes up one of the four key pillars. It was revealed that some states, like California, fund community schools with state appropriated funds and other states fund community schools using a variety of state and federal funds as well.
- November 21, 2022: At the November Council meeting, the Council was presented with a report on the results of the Nevada Family Engagement Summit. The Nevada Family Engagement Summit was a virtual, statewide event seeking to build the family engagement capacity of attendees. Sessions at the summit included the sharing of family engagement best practices occurring outside Nevada.
- December 12, 2022: At the December Council meeting, the Council heard an overview of the newly updated National Parent Teacher Association Family-School Partnership Standards (Standards). The Standards are considered national best practice and a part of other state's family engagement policies. The Standards are embedded in Nevada's Family

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Engagement Framework and promoted as best practice. The Standards are also embedded in the Nevada Educator Performance Framework, the statewide educator evaluation system.

## **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.

- April 18, 2022: At the April Council meeting, the Council heard a presentation on their legislative duties and responsibilities, which included an overview of this legislative requirement.
- June 20, 2022: At the June Council meeting, the Council heard a presentation on Nevada’s Family Engagement Framework, which includes a toolkit that highlights family engagement best practices and strategies. Some of the content within the framework and the family engagement practices highlighted in the toolkit identify effective communication and outreach for families, including families who have a limited time to get involved.
- July 25, 2022: At the July Council meeting, the Council heard a presentation from the Institute for Educational Leadership on the community schools model. The community schools model lends itself to providing services and resources to support specific school community needs, which includes identifying effective communication and outreach strategies for families who have limited time to get involved in their child’s education. The model helps address existing barriers to engagement.
- July 25, 2022: At the July Council meeting, the Council heard a presentation on early childhood education in Nevada and the state’s publicly funded pre-K programs. The Council requested the websites links to this information to more widely share with families who are interested in knowing this information, which includes families who may be unaware of this source’s existence and families who have limited time to get involved in their child’s education for various reasons.
- November 21, 2022: At the November Council meeting, the Council was presented with a report on the results of the Nevada Family Engagement Summit. The Nevada Family Engagement Summit was a virtual, statewide event seeking to build the family engagement capacity of attendees. Sessions at the summit included the sharing of family engagement best practices regarding effective communication and outreach to families, including families who have limited time to get involved and how to address those barriers.
- December 12, 2022: At the December Council meeting, the Council heard an overview of the newly updated National Parent Teacher Association Family-School Partnership

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Standards (Standards). The Standards are best practice and communicating effectively with all families is one of the six standards. The Standards are embedded in Nevada's Family Engagement Framework and promoted as best practice. The Standards are also embedded in the Nevada Educator Performance Framework, the statewide educator evaluation system.

## **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.

- April 18, 2022: At the April Council meeting, the Council heard a presentation on their legislative duties and responsibilities, which included an overview of this legislative requirement.
- June 20, 2022: At the June Council meeting, the Council heard a presentation on [Nevada's Family Engagement Framework](#), which includes a toolkit that highlights family engagement best practices and strategies. Content within the framework demonstrates the impact of family engagement on academic performance and attendance. Decades of research has proven how effective family engagement strategies and practices lead to positive outcomes for students, which includes improved attendance rates and improved student academic outcomes.
- July 25, 2022: At the July Council meeting, the Council heard a presentation from the Institute for Educational Leadership on the community schools model. The community schools model lends itself to providing services and resources to support specific school community needs, which includes identifying factors that impact student performance, attendance, and discipline. The model helps address issues like student performance, attendance, and discipline via family engagement and shared decision-making.
- December 12, 2022: At the December Council meeting, the Council heard a presentation on the impacts of student chronic absenteeism. Specifically, its impact on student academic outcomes. Engaging families when it comes to chronic absenteeism is a key component in reducing student chronic absenteeism rates and requires creating authentic, respectful relationships with families to address their needs and eliminate barriers to attendance.



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## 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.

- April 18, 2022: At the April Council meeting, the Council heard a presentation on their legislative duties and responsibilities, which included an overview of this legislative requirement.
- July 25, 2022: At the July Council meeting, the Council heard a presentation on early childhood education in Nevada and the state’s publicly funded pre-K programs. The Council requested the websites links to this information to share with families who are interested in finding information on the available pre-K programs in Nevada.
- June 20, 2022: At the June Council meeting, the Council heard a presentation on [Nevada’s Family Engagement Framework](#), which includes a toolkit that highlights family engagement best practices and strategies. Some of the content within the framework and the family engagement practices highlighted in the toolkit promotes and identifies effective communication strategies and outreach for families, including families with children who are English Learners.
- July 25, 2022: At the July Council meeting, the Council heard a presentation from the Institute for Educational Leadership on the community schools model. The community schools model lends itself to providing services and resources to support specific school community needs, which includes identifying effective communication and outreach strategies for families with children who are English Learners.
- July 25, 2022: At the July Council meeting, the Council heard a presentation on early childhood education in Nevada and the state’s publicly funded pre-K programs. The Council requested the websites links to this information to more widely share with families who are interested in knowing this information, which includes families who may be unaware of this source’s existence and families of students who are English Learners.
- November 21, 2022: At the November Council meeting, the Council was presented with a report on the results of the Nevada Family Engagement Summit. The Nevada Family Engagement Summit was a virtual, statewide event seeking to build the family engagement capacity of attendees. Sessions at the summit included the sharing of family engagement best practices regarding effective communication and outreach to families, including families with children who are English Learners.
- December 12, 2022: At the December Council meeting, the Council heard an overview of the newly updated National Parent Teacher Association Family-School Partnership Standards (Standards). The Standards are best practice and communicating effectively with all families is one of the six standards. The Standards are embedded in Nevada’s Family

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Engagement Framework and promoted as best practice. The Standards are also embedded in the Nevada Educator Performance Framework, the statewide educator evaluation system.

## **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.

- April 18, 2022: At the April Council meeting, the Council heard a presentation on their legislative duties and responsibilities, which included an overview of this legislative requirement.
- January 23, 2023: At the January Council meeting, the Council determined the continued need of a statewide parental involvement and family engagement coordinator and the need for each public school district to have funded a parental involvement and family engagement coordinator.

## **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](#).

- April 18, 2022: At the April Council meeting, the Council heard a presentation on their legislative duties and responsibilities, which included an overview of this legislative requirement.
- The Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement is responsible for planning and implementing a statewide family engagement summit every other year. The Council assisted the Office in promoting the family engagement summit and Chair Rebecca Dirks Garcia facilitated a few workshops regarding family engagement best practices at the summit.
- The Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement works and collaborates with the Council to ensure the duties and responsibilities prescribed in [NRS 385.635](#) aligns with the Council's work and family engagement best practice.