


ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR FAMILY ENGAGEMENT: 2026 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

FEBRUARY 1, 2025 – FEBRUARY 1, 2026



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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.
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 students.

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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- In 2024, the Council discussed the creation of 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. The Council will revisit this workgroup and create a meeting schedule.

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 guide 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 guide.
- The Council will invite school districts to present exemplary practices during upcoming meetings. The purpose of these presentations is to showcase effective family engagement strategies that have demonstrated positive impacts on student academic achievement across both urban and rural districts. Furthermore, these presentations will provide the Council with valuable insights into the varying needs and supports required by districts to effectively implement and sustain family engagement initiatives.
- The Council will recommend to the PIFE Office, or if allowed, to the State Board of Education, the establishment of an event to recognize schools and individual successes in family engagement.

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 guide to include more family engagement best practices targeted to specific audiences: families, teachers, 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 guide.
- The Family Engagement Guide (formerly referred to as the Family Engagement Framework) underwent a comprehensive revision in early 2025. The updates focused on enhancing the guide’s overall design and functionality, including improved visual presentation, the incorporation of updated and multilingual resources, and the development of a role-specific toolkit to better support diverse stakeholders. Future initiatives include the creation of an interactive web-based version of the guide, the establishment of a structured process for the periodic review and vetting of toolkit resources, and the translation of the guide into additional languages to further promote accessibility and inclusivity statewide.

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.

- The Council is collaborating with the PIFE Office to update Nevada’s statewide family engagement guide to include more family engagement best practices, specifically best practices in early childhood. One of the standards the guide addresses is two-way communication with families. Existing family engagement strategies in the framework, and additional outreach and communication strategies added to the toolkit, 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.
- The Council observed that providing information regarding family rights, support, and available pathways (including Section 504) in clear, accessible formats significantly benefits families. The Council notes that employing universal design principles will improve clarity and comprehension, for families with limited time to engage. This area will be further explored in collaboration with school districts and the Department.

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 for a 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.
- The PIFE office continued its collaboration with the Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment (OSRLE) to ensure that sessions addressing school safety and social-emotional learning were made available to both families and educators during the Family Engagement Summits.
- The OSRLE office will present to the council information regarding restorative practices with statewide data.
- The PIFE Office is now a member of the Stronger Connections Technical Assistance and Capacity (SCTAC) building group, a collaborative dedicated to enhancing school attendance. By using evidence-based interventions and strategic mentorship, this group is actively working toward the ambitious goal of the Attendance Works' 50% Challenge: to decrease chronic absenteeism by 50% within five years.

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 guide to include more family engagement best practices, specifically best practices in early childhood. One of the standards the guide addresses is two-way communication with families. Existing family engagement strategies in the framework, and additional outreach and communication strategies added to the toolkit, prioritize evidence- and researched-based

strategies that have proven to be effective for all families, including families of pupils who are English learners.

- The Council recommends adopting multilingual, culturally responsive outreach models to enhance communication and engagement with families of English Learner (EL) students. This approach should be developed in alignment with relevant federal guidance to ensure effective and compliant outreach practices.
- To enhance accessibility for diverse communities, the Family Engagement Guide has been translated into Spanish. Future initiatives include translating the guide into multiple additional languages.
- Interpretation services were successfully provided during both Family Engagement Summits, effectively removing language barriers. This ensured the summits were fully accessible to multilingual families, allowing them to participate in all activities and sessions. Future plans include hiring interpretation services for all summits.

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 evaluated the critical need for Family Engagement Coordinators by focusing on consistency and staff retention, noting that positions relying on short-term or fluctuating funding create significant instability for districts. Therefore, ensuring long-term stability for these essential family engagement roles was identified for future Council deliberation.
- To enhance statewide communication and facilitate the successful deployment of initiatives, the PIFE office will host office hours offering technical assistance to PIFE coordinators. Inviting representatives from the State Public Charter School Authority to these sessions is a strategic step intended to initiate and sustain better cross-organizational communication throughout the state.

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 assisted the PIFE Office in planning the statewide family engagement summits held in September 2025.

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- 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 Guide to include more family engagement best practices, specifically best practices in early childhood.
 - The PIFE Office successfully disseminated the guide updates through presentations at the 2025 Early Learning Institute (ELI) and the Nevada Association for School Administrators (NASA) conferences.
 - A research collaboration has been established between the PIFE office and Ohio State University to evaluate the PIFE courses currently approved by the Nevada Department of Education. This initiative will generate research-based findings identifying the courses most effective in equipping educators to implement PIFE strategies within their classrooms and other professional settings.
 - The Council discussed strengthening outreach efforts to families of children with diverse learning needs, noting that community partnerships are essential for both identifying emerging family requirements and providing necessary support. Moving forward, the Council affirmed its commitment to continued collaboration with the PIFE Office to advance initiatives in this area.