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**GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM 25-03**

**TO:** All Local Education Agencies

**FROM:** Dr. Steve Canavero, Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction

**DATE:** June 30, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Updates Regarding the Use of Weighted Funding under the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan

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**BACKGROUND**

The 83<sup>rd</sup> (2025) Session of the Nevada Legislature concluded on June 2, 2025; this memorandum serves to inform local education agencies (LEAs) of changes made by Senate Bill (SB) 81 and Assembly Bill (AB) 398 to weighted funding categories within the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan (PCFP) as defined in Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 387.12445, which become effective July 1, 2025.

**TERMINOLOGY**

[SB81](#) (2025) updated terminology in alignment with conforming changes introduced as part of the PCFP and its weighted funding categories in school year 2021-22 (SY21-22). Prior to implementation of the PCFP, funding for services supporting pupils who are English learners (ELs) was provided in a categorical grant known as “Zoom services”; similarly, funding for services supporting pupils at-risk was provided in a categorical grant known as “Victory services”. Upon implementation of the PCFP, the funding methodology for such services moved to weighted funding expressed as a multiplier of the statewide base per-pupil funding amount, transforming the categorical grants for Zoom and Victory schools to services for all pupils who are EL or identified as at-risk.

SB81 subsequently updated references so that:

- “Zoom services” reads as “services for pupils who are English learners”; and
- “Victory services” reads as “services for at-risk pupils”.

**WEIGHTED FUNDING CATEGORIES**

Under AB398, **the ability to use EL or at-risk funding for hiring and/or retention incentives for teachers and other licensed personnel providing services for EL or at-risk pupils has been limited** to school districts located in counties with populations less than 700,000. This affects all charter schools, including charter schools sponsored by districts, and the Clark County School District. Please note that standard salaries for personnel providing services for at-risk pupils may continue to use at-risk funding.

Public schools receiving weighted funding for one or more pupils identified as at-risk or EL may only use such funding to provide the services listed below. If a school has identified a service or program with a demonstrated

record of success that they wish to implement but is not otherwise listed, a “[PCFP Other Service Approval Request Form](#)” must be completed and submitted to the Department for review and approval.

### ***Pupils who are English Learners***

Previously known as “Zoom services”, allowable services for pupils who are EL are defined in NRS 387.12445(10)(b) and include the following:

- Pre-kindergarten programs that are provided free of charge.
- Reading skills centers.
- Summer academies or intersession academies for pupils that are provided free of charge, including, without limitation, the provision of transportation.
- Professional development for teachers and other licensed educational personnel regarding effective instructional practices and strategies for pupils who are English learners.
- In a school district located in a county whose population is less than 700,000, incentives for hiring and retaining teachers and other licensed educational personnel who provide services for pupils who are English learners.
- Engagement and involvement with parents and families of pupils who are English learners including, without limitation, increasing effective, culturally appropriate communication with and outreach to parents and families to support the academic achievement of those pupils.
- An extended school day.
- Any other service or program that has a demonstrated record of success for similarly situated pupils in comparable school districts that has been reviewed and approved as a service for pupils who are English learners by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.
  - Note: Pursuant to discussion during the February 23, 2024, Commission on School Funding meeting, NDE and the Commission determined that a dual language program qualified under this provision, and that weighted funding could be used to support EL enrollment in such a program.

### ***At-Risk Pupils***

Previously known as “Victory services”, allowable services for at-risk pupils are defined in NRS 387.12445(10)(a) and include the following:

- Pre-kindergarten programs that are provided free of charge.
- Summer academies or other instruction for pupils provided free of charge at times during the year when school is not in session.
- Additional instruction or other learning opportunities provided free of charge at times of day when school is not in session.
- Professional development for teachers and other educational personnel concerning instructional practices and strategies that have proven to be an effective means to increase pupil achievement in populations of at-risk pupils.
- In a school district located in a county whose population is less than 700,000, incentives for hiring and retaining teachers and other licensed educational personnel who provide services for at-risk pupils.
- Employment of paraprofessionals, other educational personnel, and other persons who provide services for at-risk pupils.
- Reading skills centers.
- Integrated student supports, wrap-around services, and evidence-based programs designed to meet the needs of at-risk pupils.
- Any other service or program that has a demonstrated record of success for similarly situated pupils in comparable school districts that has been reviewed and approved as a service for at-risk pupils by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

### ***Gifted and Talented Pupils***

Weighted funding for gifted and talented pupils may only be used to serve students who meet eligibility criteria pursuant to Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 388.435; allowable services for such students are further defined in NRS 387.12445(5)(b) to include the following:

- The cost of instruction provided by licensed special education teachers, such as those licensed pursuant to NAC 391.394, and supporting staff in programs of gifted and talented education.
- Related services.
- Transportation of gifted and talented pupils to and from school.
- The direct supervision of educational and supporting programs.
- The supplies and equipment needed for providing such an education.

No changes were made to these provisions during the 83<sup>rd</sup> Session.

### **CONCLUSION**

As local education agencies (LEAs) assess the impact of amendments to eligible services, please note that LEAs may use adjusted base per-pupil funding freely to supplement weighted categories; this process does not require review or approval by the Department.

If you have any questions regarding this guidance, please reach out to Melissa Willis at [melissa.willis@doe.nv.gov](mailto:melissa.willis@doe.nv.gov) or by phone at 775-687-9135.

cc: Megan Peterson, Deputy Superintendent for Student Investment  
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