

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
COMMISSION ON SCHOOL FUNDING
December 12, 2025
9:00 AM

Office	Address	City	Room
Department of Education	2080 E. Flamingo Rd.	Las Vegas	Board Room
Department of Education	700 E. Fifth St.	Carson City	Silver Ore
Department of Education	Virtual	Virtual	YouTube

The following is a summary of the Nevada Commission on School Funding (CSF) meeting held on December 12, 2025.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call

- Date & Time: The hybrid meeting of the Nevada Commission on School Funding was called to order at 9:02 AM on December 12, 2025, with a quorum present. Member Mathur noted that Vice Chair Woodhouse was absent but sent her best wishes.
- Roll call was taken by the secretary, noting a quorum.
 - Chair Hobbs (Present)
 - Vice Chair Woodhouse (Absent)
 - Member Mathur (Present)
 - Member Brune (Present)
 - Member King (Present)
 - Member Reeves (Present)
 - Member Casey (Present)
 - Member Dayhoff (Present)
 - Member Mathers (Present)
 - Member Ritchie (Present)
 - Member Stahlke (Present)
 - Legal Counsel: Deputy Attorney General Greg Ott

The agenda was noted as flexible to accommodate speakers; some items may appear out of order.

2. Public Comment Period No. 2 (Agenda Items Only)

- The first public comment period, limited to agenda items, concluded with no public comments in Carson City or Las Vegas, nor any written comments or participation by phone.

3. Consent Agenda (For Possible Action)

Information concerning the following consent agenda items has been provided to Commission members for study prior to the meeting. Unless a Commission member has a question concerning a particular item and asks that it be withdrawn from the consent list, all items are approved in one action

- The consent agenda, which included the November 21, 2025, minutes, was moved for approval by Member Mathur and seconded by Member Dayhoff. The motion passed.

4. Nevada Department of Education (NDE) Update

The Commission will receive an update on the progress made by the Nevada Department of Education since the last meeting.

- Megan Peterson, Deputy Superintendent, Student Investment Division (SID), NDE
 - Deputy Superintendent Megan Peterson provided a short update. The contract amendment with West Ed and APA was approved at the Board of Examiners meeting, allowing the continuation of work and expansion of scope under SB 460. Two remaining contracts (Competency Based Education and Applied Analysis amendment) are expected to be reviewed at the January Board of Examiners meeting.
 - A discussion arose regarding the Hard to Fill Incentive appropriated through AB 398 (2025), which adds this funding component to the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan (PCFP) as a separate tier of awards. This addition conflicts with the core PCFP goal of consolidating categorical funds to streamline mechanisms and provide flexibility.
 - A concern was raised regarding declining enrollment in districts such as Douglas County, leading to fiscal challenges, as increasing costs are funded on a decreasing student base.

6. Nevada Cost of Education Index (NCEI) (Information Discussion and Possible Action)
NRS 387.12463(1)(e) requires the Commission to review and recommend to the Department revisions of the cost adjustment factors for each county established pursuant to NRS 387.1215 The Commission will discuss the NCEI and make possible recommendations

- Brian Gordon, Principal, Applied Analysis
 - The Commission moved to discuss the NCEI, which is intended to adjust funding based on differing economies and purchasing power across the state but has been carried with a neutral factor of 1.0 for the past two biennium.
 - Brian Gordon and Brian Haynes with Applied Analysis presented their initial review of prior APA work on NCEI methodology, noting the previous focus on metrics like the Comparable Wage Index (CWI). Applied Analysis noted that finding reliable, consistent, and transparent data (e.g., Census-based data or Bureau of Labor Statistics) is a key challenge. They suggested that using a rolling average over a period could mitigate wide swings in costs and assist districts with budgeting. Historically, a similar factor known as the "basic support ratio" was included in Nevada's previous funding formula, based on a four-year average of prior expenditures.
 - Commission members raised several questions, including the need to analyze whether the NCEI is truly necessary given that many states do not use such an index. Concerns were also raised about the potential for NCEI to compete or contradict the existing Attendance Zone Adjustment and the lack of data volume in rural counties to support a robust model.

5. Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education (CIEE) (Information and Discussion)

Pursuant to SB460, the Commission shall, at least once each year, meet with the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education created by NRS 385.910 to discuss and review progress on any studies, research and recommendations developed by each group that concern shared domains of focus. The Commission shall receive an update on the activities of the CIEE.

- Joyce Woodhouse, Vice Chair, Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education
 - Patty Charlton and Nathan Driskell presented an update on the CIEE, which was established by SB 425 (2023) to provide a policy framework for a world-class education system.
 - The CIEE has focused on four key policy areas: student-centered learning, recruiting high-capacity educators, education/workforce linkage, and data accountability. Their work has produced a 5-year roadmap, policy principles, and recommendations focusing on accelerating competency-based education, educator development, a performance dashboard, and next-generation career pathways.
 - Patty Charlton highlighted the complementary nature of CIEE's work, which focuses on measuring what matters and demonstrating that investment moves the needle, assisting CSF in justifying funding targets.

7. National Policy Scan (Information and Discussion)

The Commission will receive a presentation on findings from a national policy scan of funding formulas in all 50 states and the District of Columbia to better understand how the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan (PCFP) compares to others state's approaches.

- Dr. Amanda Brown, Vice President, APA
- Justin Silverstein, Co-CEO, APA
 - Justin Silverstein and Amanda Brown (APA) provided a scan of school finance formulas nationwide.
 - They highlighted that Nevada uses a student-based foundation formula, consistent with 38 other states. Key comparisons included:
 - **Student Counts:** Nevada uses Average Quarterly Membership, while 19 states use a "better of" averaging or current year counts to smooth funding changes.
 - **Student Weights:** 31 of 38 states apply weights to a **single statewide base**, as Nevada currently does. 25 states use **stacked weights**, allowing students to receive multiple weights, unlike Nevada, which only applies the highest weight.
 - **At-risk Definition:** Nevada relies on student outcomes, or Graduation Related Analytic Data (GRAD scores). Most other states define At-risk primarily based on family poverty such as Free and Reduced-Price (FRL) and Direct Certification (DC).
 - **NCEI Equivalents:** Only 14 states use regional cost adjustments, with most shifting toward a Comparable Wage Index (CWI) approach.

8. Working Group Updates (Information, Discussion and Possible Action)

The Working Group Lead will provide an update on the activities of the Working Group since the last meeting. The Commission may discuss and make possible recommendations based on information shared by the working groups.

- Guy Hobbs, Chair Commission on School Funding
 - Due to technical issues with the Live Stream and audio being intermittent, this agenda item was pushed to the January 16, 2026, meeting of the CSF.
 - Chair Hobbs stated work group leads will be required to present updates, progress, and timeline for their work groups. This agenda item will be on every agenda going forward until the work groups have fulfilled all their obligations.

9. Future Agenda Items (Information and Discussion)

Items not appearing on the agenda may be considered possible topics for the Commission to hear at the next meeting

- Guy Hobbs, Chair, Commission on School Funding
 - Chair will work with NDE to follow up on conversations that started last month around At-risk and its placement at the next meeting, Friday, January 16, 2026

10. Public Comment #2 (Any items under the Commissions scope)

- The second public comment period, limited to items under the Commissions scope and responsibility, concluded with no public comments in Carson City or Las Vegas, nor any written comments or participation by phone.

11. Adjournment The hybrid meeting of the Nevada Commission on School Funding was adjourned at approximately 12:00 pm.

Actionable Items and Items Requiring Follow-up

The following items were identified as actions or future follow-up:

I. Applied Analysis (NCEI and Funding Structure):

- a. Applied Analysis is tasked with conducting further analysis, reviewing prior work, vetting data reliability, and making recommendations on resolving the NCEI methodology by the target timeframe of February or March. Consideration should be given to rolling averages or smoothing methods.
- b. Applied Analysis must address the fundamental question of the value and criticality of the NCEI within Nevada's formula, potentially recommending its elimination.
- c. Applied Analysis must analyze the interplay between the NCEI and the Attendance Zone Adjustment to determine if they compete or contradict each other.
- d. Applied Analysis must examine the challenges presented by the lack of data volume in rural counties when developing a cost index model.

II. Consultants (APA/NDE/Others) regarding Student Weights and Policy

- a. Consultants must provide additional analysis on the wide range of weights used in other states, explaining the variation based on analytical data, trends, or base funding levels.
- b. Consultants must investigate if other states have models where students move in and out of the At-risk category and whether this results in the removal of necessary resources.
- c. Consultants must analyze the performance outcomes of states based on their varying funding approaches.
- d. Consultants must research how other states have managed the Gifted weight and if any states plan to remove it to redirect funding to other areas.

III. Collaboration with CIEE:

- a. The Commission will continue to collaborate with the CIEE to align future funding projections and targets with CIEE's policy frameworks and educational objectives.