

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
COMMISSION ON SCHOOL FUNDING**

**MEETING MINUTES** – Draft for approval at the April 24, 2026, Commission meeting

**Date:** April 3, 2026

**Time:** 9:00 AM (Called to order at 9:06 AM; Adjourned at 3:39 PM)

**Locations:** NDE-LV Bighorn Conference Room, NDE-CC Silver Ore Conference Room, and Virtual (YouTube)

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The Commission Chair will facilitate public comment at the meeting's commencement and conclusion. A time limit of three minutes will be imposed by the Commission Chair to afford all members of the public who wish to comment with an opportunity to do so within the timeframe available to the Commission.

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**AGENDA**

**1. Call to Order, Roll Call**

Chair Guy Hobbs called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM. Roll call established a quorum with the following members present: Chair Hobbs, Member Mathur, Member King, Member Reeves, Member Casey, Member Dayhoff, Member Mathers, Member Ritchie, and Member Stahlke. Vice Chair Woodhouse and Member Brune joined virtually later in the morning.

**2. Public Comment #1**

December Watts, a special education administrator at Pinecrest Academy of Northern Nevada, provided public comment in Carson City. She stated that charter schools do not receive dedicated facility funding or local tax revenues. She argued that charter school reserves are not "excess funds" but are necessary for securing and maintaining safe facilities, asking the Commission to avoid placing caps on charter reserves until equitable facility funding solutions exist.

**3. Consent Agenda (For Possible Action)**

**Motion:** A motion was made to approve the February 20, 2026, Commission Meeting Minutes Summary.

**Second:** The motion was second.

**Action:** Passed unanimously via voice vote.

**4. Nevada Department of Education Update (Information and Discussion)**

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

- Melissa Willis, Administrative Services Officer IV, NDE

Melissa Willis introduced Mel Evans as the new State Education Funding Manager and Director of the Office of Pupil-Centered Funding (OPCF). Willis reported that PCFP expenditures have outpaced revenues, requiring a \$49 million transfer from the Education Stabilization Account (ESA) to cover expenses, leaving the ESA balance at \$621.6 million. NDE anticipates paying the ESA back at the close of the fiscal year. Willis also summarized a recent presentation to the Joint Interim Committee on Education regarding declining enrollment trends and financial distress strategies.

**5. Working Group Updates (Agenda Item 6) (Information, Discussion, and Possible Action)**

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

- Guy Hobbs, Chair, Commission on School Funding

Chair Hobbs reviewed the status matrix of working groups, noting that several items (Attendance Area Adjustment, NCEI, Enrollment Trends, Weighted Funding, Reserve Analysis) were on the day's agenda.

- **At-Risk Working Group:** Member Justin Silverstein reported the group is waiting on data regarding the impact of current at-risk dollars (expected June/July) to make informed adjustment recommendations and is coordinating with the State Board of Education.
- **Expenditure Reporting:** Member Dusty Casey reported the group is deep-diving into the budget-to-reporting cycle with WestEd, noting discrepancies between districts, charter schools, and state agencies. Recommendations will be presented at the next meeting.
- **Optimal Funding:** Member Hobbs reported the group is modeling revenue scenarios (property tax abatements, sales tax base adjustments) and is waiting for May for the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) data to calculate the gap to the national average per-pupil funding target.

**6. Discussion on Bill Draft Requests (Agenda item 13) (Information, Discussion, and Possible Action)**

Under Senate Bill 460, section 62, the Commission may request the drafting of not more than 1 legislative measure which relates to matters within the scope of the Commission. The Commission will have a discussion on the potential topics to be covered in the Commission's Bill Draft Request (BDR).

- Guy Hobbs, Chair, Commission on School Funding

The Commission discussed strategies for its single allotted BDR. Options debated included focusing the BDR on fundamental PCFP reforms (e.g., stacking of weights, attendance area adjustments) versus utilizing the BDR to propose new funding/revenue generation specifically earmarked for education. The Commission discussed concurrently drafting a Commission-sponsored BDR while working with external legislators to sponsor other policy recommendations. This item was carried to future agendas for finalization by the September deadline.

**7. Education Service Center (Agenda Item 5) (Information and Discussion)**

The Commission will receive a presentation from the newly established Education Service Center and its efforts relating to improving reporting efficiency.

- Dr. Steve Canavero, Interim Executive Director, Education Service Center

Dr. Steve Canavero, Interim Executive Director, provided an update on the newly established Education Service Center (ESC), operating temporarily out of the Governor's Office. A seven-member board has been partially appointed. Identified foundational needs from districts include reducing friction (reporting/grants management), access to specialized expertise, and leadership support. Current ESC projects include:

- Launching CFO/financial support for districts from April to June.
- Finalizing the Commission's prior work on reducing/consolidating reporting requirements, with recommendations expected by the end of April.

**8. Nevada Cost of Education Index (NCEI) (Agenda Item 7) (Information, Discussion and Possible Action)-Part 1**

Pursuant to NRS 387.12463(1)(e) the Commission shall review and recommend to the Department revisions of the cost adjustment factors for each county and the method for calculating the attendance area adjustment.

- Brian Gordon, Principal Analyst, Applied Analysis

Brian Gordon of Applied Analysis presented on regional cost adjustments. APA recommended implementing an adjustment, acknowledging that the value of a dollar varies by county. Due to the volatility and financial harm an immediate implementation would cause in a constrained funding environment, Chair Hobbs suggested establishing a trigger tied to optimal funding levels.

- **Motion:** Chair Hobbs moved that the Commission hold the NCEI application at a factor of 1.0 until state funding reaches a trigger of 90% of the national average. At that 90% mark, the methodology will be evaluated and implemented (potentially phased in). Additionally, the NCEI working group will be reconstituted to work with Applied Analysis and DETR to identify and collect better county-level wage data in the interim.
- **Second:** Member Punam Mathur.
- **Action:** Passed unanimously via hand raise.

**9. Attendance Area Adjustment (AAA) (Agenda Item 8) (Information, Discussion and Possible Action)**

Pursuant to NRS 387.12463(1)(e) the Commission shall monitor the implementation of the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan and make any recommendations to the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Education that the Commission determines would, within the limits of appropriated funding, improve the implementation of the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan or correct any deficiencies of the Department or any school district or public school in carrying out the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan. The Commission will receive a presentation from the Commission's consultants regarding the technical differences, underlying philosophies, and fiscal impacts of the AAA.

- Justin Silverstein, Co-CEO, APA
- Dr. Amanda Brown, Vice President, APA
- Michaela Tonking, Senior Associate, APA

Justin Silverstein and Michaela Tonking (APA) presented recommendations to redefine attendance areas based on 20-mile/30-minute peak drive time criteria. APA recommended collapsing several areas where sprawl has negated geographic isolation (saving approx. \$15 million, largely in Washoe County), phased in over four years. APA also recommended eliminating the adjustment for *all* charter schools, citing a "perverse incentive." Members heavily debated excluding charter schools, arguing that public charter schools face the same geographic cost realities and should not be penalized if they are located in surviving attendance zones.

- **Motion:** Member Mathur moved to accept the recommendation to collapse the specified attendance zones over a four-year phase-in period but explicitly rejected the APA recommendation to eliminate the adjustment for all charter schools. If a charter school is physically located within a surviving attendance zone, it will continue to receive the adjustment.
- **Second:** Unidentified Member.
- **Action:** Passed with all in favor except one opposed (Member Cassie).

#### 10. Return on Investment (Agenda Item 9) (Information, Discussion, and Possible Action)

The Commission will receive a presentation on Nevada's best performing schools under the Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) and review a possible template for the report due to the Commission from each school district and charter school under NRS 387.12463(2).

- Dr. Sean Tanner, Senior Research Associate, WestEd
- Dr. Kelsey Krausen, Director of Education Finance, WestEd

Dr. Sean Tanner and Dr. Kelsey Krausen (WestEd) presented on return on investment (ROI). An impact analysis correlating funding to student outcomes will be delivered in July. WestEd identified a subset of "persistently improving schools" (Title I schools showing steady star-rating and composite score gains).

- **Recommendation:** Given timeline constraints, do not create a new reporting requirement. Instead, analyze existing 387.2468 reports, supplement this with a pilot programmatic survey sent only to the persistently improving schools, and evaluate future tracking within NDE's forthcoming Data Management System.
- **Motion:** Member Dayhoff moved to accept the recommendations as proposed.

*(Note: The motion implicitly captured Member Casey's request to include training on expenditure recording consistency).*

- **Second:** Member Ryan Reeves
- **Action:** Passed unanimously.

#### 11. Charter School Reserve Analysis (Agenda Item 10) (Information, Discussion, and Possible Action)

Pursuant to NRS 387.12463(1)(b) the Commission shall monitor the implementation of the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan and make any recommendations to the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Education that the Commission determines would, within the limits of appropriated funding, improve the implementation of the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan or correct any deficiencies of the Department or any school district or public school in carrying out the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan.

- Ryan Reeves, Commission on School Funding, Member

Ryan Reeves presented on the discrepancy between the 16.6% reserve cap for districts and the operational realities of charter schools. Reeves explained that charters must maintain high unrestricted cash reserves (often 60-180 days cash on hand) to secure investment-grade bond ratings for capital facilities, as they do not receive local property tax revenue streams. Transferring funds to a restricted capital account negatively impacts liquidity ratios for bond rating agencies.

**Motion (Withdrawn):** Member Reeves motioned to recommend leaving existing law as is while working with NDE to collect more data. Member Dayhoff second. After discussion that more data was needed *before* making any recommendation, Dayhoff withdrew his second.

**Action / Unresolved Item:** No formal action was taken. The Commission agreed to table the item and carry it over to a future agenda. In the interim, data will be collected regarding S&P/Moody's rating standards for conduit bonds, the source compositions of existing charter reserves, and reserve cap practices in other states.

**12. Enrollment Count Methodology (Agenda Item 11)** (Information, Discussion, and Possible Action)  
Pursuant to NRS 387.12463(1), the Commission shall monitor the implementation of the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan and make any recommendations that would improve the implementation or correct any deficiencies.

- Justin Silverstein, Co-CEO, APA
- Dr. Amanda Brown, Vice President, APA
- Michaela Tonking, Senior Associate, APA

Justin Silverstein (APA) presented options to shift away from the current quarterly Average Daily Enrollment (ADE) true-up process to address budget instability caused by declining enrollment. Scenarios included multi-year averages and single-day counts. Members preferred abandoning the quarterly true-ups to allow districts to lock in their budgets and staffing early in the year.

- **Motion & Amendments:** Member Dayoff motioned, heavily amended through discussion, to adopt a Single Count Day in the Current Year for base funding, align the Weighted Funding count to the exact same day, and modify the Hold Harmless provision to 3% (meaning a district absorbs an enrollment loss *up to* 3%, but the state holds them harmless for any loss *beyond* 3%). This includes the understanding that NDE will use this methodology for budget build projections.
- **Second:** Member Casey.
- **Action:** Passed unanimously.

**13. Weighted Funding (Agenda Item 12)** (Information, Discussion, and Possible Action)

Pursuant to NRS 387.12463(1)(c), the Commission shall review the weighted multiplier for weighted funding for each category of pupils appropriated by law for each biennium and recommend any revisions determined to be appropriate to create an optimal level of funding, including, without limitation, by recommending the creation or elimination of one or more categories of pupils to receive additional weighted funding.

- Justin Silverstein, Co-CEO, APA
- Dr. Amanda Brown, Vice President, APA
- Michaela Tonking, Senior Associate, APA

*Note: Addressed briefly under Item 11.*

- **Unresolved / Carried Item:** The Commission previously reached a consensus supporting the concept of stacking pupil weights (excluding SpEd) but had not finalized the mathematical discount rate for overlapping weights (e.g., At-Risk and EL). Chair Hobbs directed the working group to focus on the overlapping discount methodology and bring it back for a formal vote to be included in the final November report, emphasizing that implementation should be contingent upon the state providing additional funding.

**14. Future Agenda Items (Information and Discussion, Public Comment #2 and Adjournment (Agenda Items 15 & 16)**

Eduardo Martinez (Charter Association of Nevada) submitted a written comment urging the Commission to preserve attendance zone adjustments for charter schools and to allow them to accrue year-over-year reserves for capital costs.

Chair Hobbs adjourned the meeting at 3:39 PM.

**Crosswalk of Meeting Items for Reference:**

<b>Agenda Item / Topic</b>	<b>Summary of Discussion / Current Status</b>	<b>Next Steps / Required Action / Status</b>
<b>Item 3: Consent Agenda</b>	Review of Feb 20, 2026, minutes.	<b>ACTION TAKEN:</b> Approved unanimously.
<b>Item 4: NDE Update</b>	ESA holds \$621.6M; \$49M transferred to cover PCFP cash flow gaps. NDE expects to repay by year-end.	Monitor cash flow and IFC permanent transfers.
<b>Item 5: Education Service Center</b>	ESC launched projects for CFO support and finalizing reporting consolidation.	Expect reporting recommendations by late April.
<b>Item 6: Working Group Updates</b>	At-Risk, Expenditure Reporting, Optimal Funding groups provided updates on data collection and timelines.	Working groups will return with formal recommendations for upcoming June/July meetings.
<b>Item 7: NCEI</b>	Debate over immediate implementation vs. funding harm. Decided to wait for optimal funding levels.	<b>ACTION TAKEN:</b> Hold NCEI at 1.0 until funding hits 90% of national average. Reconstitute working group for data sourcing.
<b>Item 8: Attendance Area Adjustment</b>	Approved APA's model to collapse attendance zones due to sprawl over 4 years. Defended charter school inclusion.	<b>ACTION TAKEN:</b> Collapse specified zones. Charters <i>within</i> surviving zones retain the adjustment.
<b>Item 9: Return on Investment</b>	Identified persistently improving schools. Decided against a new reporting burden for districts.	<b>ACTION TAKEN:</b> Deploy programmatic survey to high-performing schools; use existing 2468 reports.
<b>Item 10: Charter Reserve Analysis</b>	Discussed charter reliance on reserves for bond ratings vs. district 16.6% caps. Motion was withdrawn to seek data.	<b>UNRESOLVED:</b> Carried to future agenda to review S&P/Moody's rating criteria and multi-state data.
<b>Item 11: Enrollment Count</b>	Shifted to use current year student counts.	<b>ACTION TAKEN:</b> Move to a Current Year Single Count Day for Base and Weighted funding. Modify Hold Harmless to cap loss impact at 3%.

<b>Item 12: Weighted Funding</b>	Reaffirmed belief that weights must be stacked but recognized lack of mathematical methodology for overlapping discounts.	<b>UNRESOLVED:</b> Working group to formulate discount rate for overlapping weights and return to Commission for a vote.
<b>Item 13: BDR Discussion</b>	Debated dedicating the BDR to PCFP structure (stacking/AAA) vs. securing dedicated tax revenue streams.	<b>UNRESOLVED:</b> Carried to future agendas. Draft Commission BDR while seeking external legislative sponsors.