

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION
AUGUST 23, 2023
9:00 AM**

Office	Address	City	Meeting
Department of Education	2080 E. Flamingo Rd.	Las Vegas	Room 114
Department of Education	700 E. Fifth St.	Carson City	Board Room
Department of Education	Livestream	n/a	Link

DRAFT SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION MEETING

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

President Amy Rozar
Vice President Jennifer Davis
Commissioner Kenny Belknap
Commissioner Meredith Freeman
Commissioner Joseph Morgan
Commissioner Jordan Wenger

In Carson City:

Commissioner Jamie Hawkins
Commissioner Sherry Mitchell
Commissioner Keith Lewis

Virtually:

None

COMMISSION MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Commissioner Christina Tucker

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

Jeff Briske, Director, Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement (EDLiFE)
Geri Mendiola, Administrative Assistant III, EDLiFE
Anabel Sanchez, Education Programs Professional, EDLiFE
Sean Goff, Management Analyst II, EDLiFE

In Carson City:

None

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT:

Senior Deputy Attorney General David Gardner (Virtually)

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE

In Las Vegas:

None

Carson City:

None

1. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Rozar called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Roll call attendance was taken as reflected above and a quorum was established. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Rozar.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

There were no public comments in Carson City or Las Vegas.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Rozar welcomed all Educators and school staff who have assisted with school openings and who have ensured the safety and learning of all students. President Rozar expressed appreciation for all the work that has gone into starting the school year.

4. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Jeff Briske, Director, Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement (EDLiFE) reported on bills that passed and bills that did not pass during the legislative session:

SB 438 is the Teach Nevada Collaborative which includes comprehensive funding for State-wide Dual Enrollment, Educator Scholarships, Fast Track Programs, Residency Support and Wrap Around services for teachers. The bill did not pass.

AB 400 did pass and included separate funding for Teach Nevada Scholarship and Teach Nevada Advancement Scholarship.

AB 515 passed which continued Incentivizing Pathways to Teaching Federal ESSER funding using State dollars.

AB 428 passed allowing coursework in lieu of the Praxis Core. The Commission will need to adopt regulation setting standards this coursework. This was one of the recommendations from the WestEd report. Additionally, AB 428 allows Districts to compensate Student Teachers during their clinical field experience. Districts must provide the Parent Involvement and Family Engagement (PIFE) & Multicultural Education (ME) course at no cost to the educator. The Department led by Anabel Sanchez and Alberto Quintero are auditing the current approved courses and are reviewing the process for new courses to be approved.

SB 47 would eliminate Licensure application fees, then amended to reduce Licensure Fees to \$50 did not pass.

SB 442 the Teacher Mobility Compact passed. Ten states will need to adopt the Compact in statute before the Compact will start its work. Nevada was the 7th state to adopt giving us a founding voice. The Compact will allow for a smoother reciprocity process between member states.

Director Briske reported that a majority of the regulation work was adopted by the Legislative Commission at their June 1st meeting and became law on June 2nd. Highlights of this work included:

- Licensees who only hold an endorsement as a school counselor, psychologist, social worker, nurse, occupational therapist, physical therapist, or audiologist, are no longer required to take the Praxis Core exams. Speech Language Pathologists who have a master's degree and hold their certificate of clinical competence are no longer required to take the Praxis Core exams. Renewal requirements for these licensees were updated.
- The American College Test (ACT) and Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT), with qualifying scores, can now be used in lieu of the Praxis Core exams. All exam scores are now valid if they are taken within the last 10 years.
- Licensees who only hold a Business and Industry (B&I) license can add the following additional endorsements to their license: Introductory Computer Science, Advanced Computer Science, Cultural Competency, Social Emotional and Academic Development, and English Language Acquisition and Development. Additionally, B&I license holders can add an additional B&I license area by submitting certain documents.

5. APPROVAL OF APRIL 19, 2023, MINUTES (*Information/Discussion/For possible action*)

President Rozar asked the Commission if they would like to discuss the April 19, 2023, minutes. No discussion was made regarding the April 19, 2023, minutes.

Motion: Commissioner Freeman moved to approve the April 19, 2023, meeting minutes. Commissioner Hawkins seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

6. APPROVAL OF EXISTING ALTERNATIVE ROUTE TO LICENSURE RENEWAL PROGRAMS. (*Information/Discussion/For possible action*)

President Rozar introduced Anabel Sanchez, Education Programs Professional, Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement (EDLiFE).

Ms. Sanchez presented recommendations to the Commission for approval of existing Alternative Route to Licensure (ARL) Renewal Programs. Pursuant to NAC 391.461, the Department holds a review process for Alternative Route to Licensure (ARL) programs every two years. No or non-substantive modifications are approved during the renewal process. The following programs have been reviewed by the Department and are being recommended for approval:

- Grand Canyon University’s Special Education Generalist, Secondary Art, Biological Science, Language Arts, Mathematics, Music, Physical Science, and Social Studies. There were no modifications to these programs.
- Great Basin College’s Early Childhood, Elementary, Special Education Generalist, Secondary Art, Biological Science, French, German, Language Arts, Mathematics, Music, Physical Education, Physical Science, Social Studies, and Spanish. There were no modifications to these programs.
- iteachNevada’s Elementary, Special Education Generalist, K-12 Physical Education, Secondary Biological Science, Language Arts, Mathematics, Physical Science, and Social Studies. There were no modifications to these programs.
- Nevada Teacher Corps/The New Teacher Project’s Elementary Education. There were no modifications to this program.
- Nevada Teachers of Tomorrow’s Elementary, Special Education Generalist, Secondary Biological Science, Language Arts, General Science, Mathematics, Physical Science, Social Studies and Spanish. There were no modifications to these programs.
- The University of Nevada, Las Vegas’s Early Childhood, Elementary, Special Education Autism, Early Childhood-Developmentally Delayed, Generalist and Intellectual Disabilities, Secondary for Biological Science, Language Arts, Mathematics, Physical Science, Social Studies, and General Science. There were no modifications to these programs.
- The University of Nevada, Reno’s Special Education Autism, Early Childhood-Developmentally Delayed, Generalist, and Intellectual Disabilities. There were no modifications to these programs.
- The University of Nevada, Reno at Lake Tahoe’s (formally Sierra Nevada University) Elementary, Special Education Generalist, Secondary Art, Biological Science, Mandarin Chinese, French, German, Latin, Spanish, Language Arts, General Science, Mathematics, Music, Physical Education, Physical Science, and Social Studies. There were no modifications to these programs.
- The Washoe County School District’s Early Childhood, Elementary, K-12 Music, Special Education Autism, Early Childhood-Developmentally Delayed, Generalist, Secondary Biological Science, Mathematics, Physical Science, German, Chinese, French, and Spanish. There were no modifications to these programs.
- Western Governors University’s Elementary, Secondary Biological Science, Language Arts, and Mathematics. There were no modifications to these programs.

Motion: Commissioner Wenger moved to approve Existing Alternative Route to Licensure Renewal Programs until August 2025. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Commissioner Morgan abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

7. APPROVAL OF UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO'S NEW ALTERNATIVE ROUTE TO LICENSURE PROGRAM. (*Information/Discussion/For possible action*)

Ms. Sanchez presented to the Commission University of Nevada, Reno's application to add a new Elementary ARL program. Pursuant to NAC 391.461, all new applications or programs with substantive modifications must be reviewed by a review team consisting of members of the Commission, the secretary to the Commission, and members of the Department. The members of the review team were Vice President Davis, Commissioner Tucker, and members of the Department. Ms. Sanchez noted that University of Nevada, Reno would like to add an Elementary ARL program. This new program area is considered a substantial change and has been recommended by the review team for the Commission's approval.

There was no discussion by the Commission.

Motion: Commissioner Morgan moved to approve University of Nevada, Reno's Elementary Alternative Route to Licensure Program until August 2025. Commissioner Wenger seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

8. APPROVAL OF UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS'S NEW ALTERNATIVE ROUTE TO LICENSURE PROGRAM AREAS. (*Information/Discussion/For possible action*)

Ms. Sanchez presented to the Commission University of Nevada, Las Vegas's application to add Secondary Art, Career and Technical Education, Health, Physical Education, and World Languages to its ARL program. Pursuant to NAC 391.461, all new applications or programs with substantive modifications must be reviewed by a review team consisting of members of the Commission, the secretary to the Commission, and members of the Department. The members of the review team were Commissioner Belknap, Commissioner Hawkings, and members of the Department. Ms. Sanchez noted that these new program areas are considered substantial changes and have been recommended by the review team for approval by the Commission.

There was no discussion by the Commission.

Motion: Commissioner Wenger moved to approve University of Nevada, Las Vegas's new program areas in Secondary Art, Career and Technical Education, Health, Physical Education and World Languages Alternative Route to Licensure Program Areas until August 2025. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. Commissioner Morgan abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

9. APPROVAL OF SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY'S NEW ALTERNATIVE ROUTE TO LICENSURE PROGRAM. (*Information/Discussion/For possible action*)

Ms. Sanchez stated to the Commission Pursuant to NAC 391.461. all new applications or programs with substantive modifications must be reviewed by a review team consisting of members of the Commission, the secretary to the Commission, and members of the Department. The members of the review team were President Rozar, Commissioner Lewis, and members of the Department.

Ms. Sanchez presented to the Commission Southern Utah University's application to add a new ARL program for Administration. The new ARL program is unique in its design and is intended for educational professionals who are stepping into an administrative position prior to completing administrative licensing requirements. The coursework is scheduled in such a way prioritizing key areas of school leadership early in the program to provide a foundation.

Commissioner Wenger asked what is the benefit of an ARL program for Administration? Director, Jeff Briske explained that this ARL program for Administration would be beneficial to rural schools who have amazing teacher leaders and vacancies in administration. This would provide an opportunity to step into an administrative position while taking coursework. Commissioner Wenger asked Director, Briske if there is a way to put a stipulation which this would only be available in rural districts? Director, Briske stated that there is another regulation in NAC 391.171 that prohibits employment of administrators on an ARL license in Clark, Washoe, and Carson City. The Commission can consider the regulation later if the Commission wishes to do so.

Commissioner Belknap echoed the concerns that Commissioner Wenger mentioned and stated there is no shortage of Administration. There is a national teacher shortage at this moment. He states he is hesitant to fast track people to jump into the administrative ranks because that would only exasperate the teacher crisis that we are seeing here in Clark County District where we have several thousand students without a licensed teacher and thirty-five thousand kids without a teacher. Commissioner Belknap asked, why we would turbo charge people to get out of the classroom and into essentially a middle-management role? Director Briske pointed out that this ARL Administrator program would benefit rural schools who don't have any administrators and who need both teachers and administrators.

President Rozar pointed out to the Commission that the goal of the ARL Administrator program is not to move people out of teaching positions and into administration in areas where there is not a lack. This is more in support of communities that don't have the population or ways to attract currently licensed administrators, so this is in effect allowing people to stay in their communities. These people know their communities best and to again leverage the educational leadership that is already there in the teaching ranks.

Commissioner Lewis agreed in favor of the new ARL Administrator program and believed the concerns that have been expressed have been about Washoe, Clark, and our urban school districts. Commissioner Lewis noted that the Commission needs to be proactive instead of reactive which gives the Commission the ability to be proactive and have the regulations in place that help the rural districts when they run into situations where they might not have as many candidates as you would see in the urban school districts. Commissioner Lewis expressed he is in support of this program.

Commissioner Wenger reiterated; this ARL program would only be in place in a rural county district, correct? Director Briske confirmed that regulation is available to anyone in the State of Nevada however, they cannot be employed as an ARL candidate in the counties of Clark, Washoe, and Carson City per NAC 391.171.

Motion: Commissioner Lewis moved to approve Southern Utah University’s New Alternative Route to Licensure Administrative Program until August 2025. Vice President Davis seconded the motion. Commissioners Belknap and Wenger opposed. Motion carried.

10. VACANCY DEFINITION FOR LICENSED PERSONNEL REPORTING PER NEVADA REVISED STATUTE (NRS) 385A.230. (*Information/Discussion/For possible action*)

Kathleen Galland-Collins, Assistant Director, Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement shared with the Commission the responsibilities of the Commission as outlined in NRS 385A.230 and provided information that may help the Commission meet the responsibilities.

Ms. Galland-Collins reviewed currently utilized definitions and discussed the possibility to adopt a definition of vacancy and the classification of inexperienced for teachers and other licensed educational personnel.

Ms. Galland-Collins stated that NRS 385A.230 and NRS 385A.440 detail the district state level reporting requirements that need the attention of the Commission.

Ms. Galland-Collins continued that NRS 385A.230 section one requires each district to report teacher and other licensed educational personnel vacancies and the classification of inexperienced as defined by the Commission on Professional Standards in Education. We do not currently have a definition of vacancy or inexperienced on record and this needs to be addressed today.

Ms. Galland-Collins explained to the Commission that the Nevada Department of Education currently collects vacancy data from districts to meet the requirements of the U.S. Department of Education’s Teacher Shortage Area report. The purpose of that report is to identify critical shortage areas for Federal Student Loan Forgiveness programs. The definition of vacancy for that report includes Teaching positions that are unfilled – this includes those filled with short- or long-term substitutes, teachers with provisional licenses (this would include ARL licenses that have not yet been converted to a standard license) and those that are licensed but teaching in an area outside that licensure area. (out of field).

Ms. Galland-Collins compared the version of the US Department of Education’s definition versus a possible Nevada definition of Licensed Personnel Vacancy. She went on to note that the purpose of the US DOE definition is to identify critical shortage areas for loan forgiveness to incentivize teachers to go into those content areas. The purpose of the Nevada definition is to identify the number of vacancies for the Nevada Accountability Report. Ms. Galland-Collins explained that this was the reason she took the liberty of removing the provisional licensees out of field teachers from the draft Nevada vacancy definition.

Commissioner Wenger asked why the provisions were removed or definition for the ARL type candidates under the vacancy proposed definition for Nevada? Ms. Galland-Collins explained that she took the liberty of removing provisional licensees from the draft Nevada vacancy definition because anyone with a provision on their license would be considered a vacant position.

Commissioner Freeman asked, when there is a class that is being taught by a prep buyout would that count as a long-term sub for the year? Ms. Galland-Collins replied that if it’s taught by someone that

is not licensed to teach that content area, for the critical shortage it is counted as a vacancy. For this current vacancy it would be considered that a substitute even though it's not being taught by a substitute, is not being filled by someone who is contracted to teach that position so it would be considered a vacancy.

Commissioner Morgan noted that he would be in support of removing provision for the definition. In his opinion the ARL licenses are so different across the country that the federal government added in as a vacancy for their definition but in the State of Nevada they are licensed teachers and are filling those positions in schools, so he concurs, Commissioner Morgan would think it is captured under inexperience, so we would have an idea of how many people are in those newer pathways to licensure. Commissioner Morgan supports the removal of provision for a vacancy position within the State of Nevada.

Motion: Commissioner Wenger moved to adopt the Alternate Definition of Licensed Personnel Vacancy for reporting. Commissioner Belknap seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Galland-Collins stated that NRS 385A.230 also requires the Commission to define the classification of inexperienced teacher and other licensed educational personnel. The definition that was suggested by a statewide work group and accepted by the Nevada Department of Education for inclusion in Every Student Succeeds Act or ESSA Plan is that an inexperience teacher is one who has less than three full years of licensed, contracted teaching experience.

Motion: Commissioner Wenger moved to adopt the Definition of Inexperienced Teachers and other Licensed Education Personnel as stated is one who has less than three full years of licensed, contracted teaching experience. Commissioner Morgan seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

11. VISITING INTERNATIONAL TEACHERS. (*Information/Discussion*)

Director Briske reported to the Commission that the VIT license has been well received and has streamlined the process for those teachers on a J-1 Visa as well as allowing more flexibility for the employees and employers while making classroom assignments. Mineral County added four teachers on a J-1 Visa to their staff and Clark County has added one hundred forty-three teachers to their staff. As of Monday, August 21, 2023, one hundred sixteen educators have submitted a VIT license application.

Director Briske went on to report the proposed updates to Regulation T009-22 would clean up some implied intent from the original temporary regulation such as removing certain provisions and renewal requirements because this is a non-renewal license. Additionally, this would allow spouses and dependents who are on a J-2 Visa to apply for this same license.

Commissioner Hawkins referenced item #8 of Regulation T009-22 and asked if spouses or dependents of the J-1 Visa holder who possess a J-2 Visa would need to follow the same regulations and have a teaching license in their place of origin is this correct? Director Briske responded that is correct and noted that he learned of the J-2 Visa recently when a spouse of a J-1 Visa holder came to Nevada. She possessed a bachelor's degree in her country in elementary education which her specialty. The

Department was able to grant her a provisional license. The spouse of the J-1 Visa holder was not able to apply for a VIT license at that time because it was not in regulation. Director Briske stated that the Department would like to make this process more streamlined.

President Rozar announced that the Commission would place this item for future agenda item for a public workshop.

12. TIERED LICENSURE PROVISIONS IN NEVADA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE (NAC) 391.056. (*Information/Discussion*)

Director, Briske reported to the Commission that there were no updates to temporary regulation T008-22. The two changes in the temporary regulation aligns all provisions to three years. Director Briske noted the Department will bring forward a regulation change in NAC 391.045 regarding the required Parent Involvement and Family Engagement course moving it from a provision on a license to a renewal requirement to comply with SB 442, the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact.

President Rozar announced that the Commission would place this item for future agenda item for a public workshop.

13. EDUCATIONAL TESTING SERVICE (ETS) EXAM REGENERATION. (*Information/Discussion/For possible action*)

Director, Jeff Briske explained to the Commission about once every 5-6 years ETS conducts a multi-state standard-setting for each test which may result in regeneration of that test.

In January 2023, Panelists from fourteen states with experience as special education teachers or college faculty who prepare those special education teachers and who have familiarity with the knowledge and skills required of beginning special education teachers participated in the study. The state of Nevada was one of the states. The study did result in a regeneration of this test. The new test is available starting September 2023, and the old test will be retired August 2024. The Department recommended for the Commission to adopt the regenerated test for special education generalist. Director Briske explained to the Commission that if the Department moves forward to adopt this test the Department will allow candidates to continue to use both tests, the old and the new until the old test has completely retired. Until then candidates will be able to use both tests.

Motion: Commissioner Wenger moved to adopt the regenerated Praxis exam for Special Education: Core Knowledge and Application – Generalist License. Commissioner Morgan seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

14. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (*Information/Discussion*)

- Commissioner Wenger made a request to discuss NAC 391.171 for item #9 of the agenda.
- Director Briske noted that there will be a public workshop for Temporary Regulation T009-22, Visiting International Teacher License and Temporary Regulation T008-22, Tiered Licensure Provisions in NAC 391.056.

15. PUBLIC COMMENT #2

There were no public comments in Carson City or Las Vegas.

16. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion: Commissioner Wenger moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Morgan seconded.
Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 9:48 A.M.