

*2017 - 2018
Annual Report
Dated
January 16, 2019*

COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION

NRS 391.028 – Annual report concerning status of Commission’s regulations and work plan.

*This report was
completed by NDE
staff on behalf of
the Commission*

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION
MISSION AND FACTS

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Commission on Professional Standards in Education is to create rigorous regulations governing the licensing of educational personnel in the State of Nevada, with the overall goal of fostering professionalism among educators and facilitating a quality education for all students.

Facts about the Commission:

The Commission on Professional Standards in Education is the only regulatory body charged with developing licensure standards for educational personnel. Its membership makeup reflects key areas within the educational profession. Licensure regulations are developed based on accepted standards for professional staff in schools, as well as the needs of Nevada's students. The Commission also establishes regulations governing competency and subject matter examinations for teachers and other licensed educational personnel. The Commission takes great care in its decisions to ensure that Nevada's educators are both highly qualified and highly effective when teaching Nevada's students.

Authority: The Commission was created by the 1987 Legislature. (NRS 391.011)

Membership: The eleven Commission members are appointed by the Governor. Pursuant to NRS 391.011, the membership makeup is as follows:

- Five members of the Commission must be educators who teach in Nevada schools:
 - (a) One who holds a license to teach secondary education and teaches in a secondary school;
 - (b) One who holds a license to teach middle school or junior high school education and teaches in a middle school or junior high school;
 - (c) One who holds a license to teach elementary school and teaches in an elementary school;
 - (d) One who holds a license to teach special education and teaches special education;
 - (e) One who holds a license to teach pupils in a program of early childhood education and teaches in a program of early childhood education.
- The remaining members of the Commission must include:
 - (a) One school counselor, psychologist, speech-language pathologist, audiologist, or social worker who is licensed pursuant to Chapter 391 of NRS and is employed by a school district or charter school;
 - (b) Two administrators of schools who are employed by a school district or charter school to provide administrative service at an individual school and not at the district level;
 - (c) The dean of the College of Education at one of the universities in the Nevada System of Higher Education, or a representative of one of the Colleges of Education nominated by such a dean for appointment by the Governor;
 - (d) One member who is the parent or legal guardian of a pupil enrolled in a public school;
 - (e) One member who has expertise and experience in the operation of a business.
- The Governor must appoint three of the five teachers from a list of names of at least three persons for each position that is submitted by an employee organization representing the majority of teachers in the State of Nevada who teach at the educational level from which the appointment is being made.

- The Governor must appoint the school counselor, psychologist, speech-language pathologist, audiologist, or social worker from a list of names of at least three persons that is submitted by an employee organization representing the majority of school counselors, psychologists, speech-language pathologists, audiologists or social workers in the State of Nevada who are not administrators.
- The Governor must appoint the two school administrators from a list of names of at least three persons for each position that is submitted by an organization of administrators for schools in which the majority of administrators of schools in the State of Nevada have membership.
- The Governor must appoint the parent or legal guardian of a pupil enrolled in a public school from a list of names of persons submitted by the Nevada Parent Teacher Association or its successor organization.

Membership Terms: No member of the Commission may serve more than two terms. (NRS 391.013)

Officers: The Commission shall elect one of its members as President and one of its members as Vice President, to serve at the pleasure of the Commission. The Superintendent of Public Instruction or the Superintendent's designee shall serve as the nonvoting Secretary to the Commission, and shall coordinate the activities of the Commission. (NRS 391.015)

Meetings: The Commission may meet at least once each month. A majority of the Commission members constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business. While attending meetings of the Commission, the members are entitled to the travel expenses and subsistence allowances provided by law for state officers and employees. (NRS 391.017)

Support: The Nevada Department of Education provides the necessary personnel and administrative support to allow the Commission to carry out its duties. (NRS 391.029)

General Duties: Pursuant to NRS 391.019, the Commission shall:

- Adopt regulations prescribing the qualifications for licensing teachers and other educational personnel, and the procedures for the issuance and renewal of those licenses.
- Identify fields of specialization in teaching which require the specialized training of educators.
- Adopt regulations requiring educators to obtain an endorsement in each field of specialization in which they wish to teach, and set forth the requirements necessary to obtain an endorsement in each field of specialization.
- Adopt regulations prescribing coursework on parental involvement and family engagement.
- Adopt regulations governing required examinations for initial licensure.
- Adopt other regulations it deems necessary for its own government or to carry out its duties.

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION
2019 WORK PLAN

1. The Commission will be responsive to statutory changes required as a result of the 2017 and 2019 Legislative sessions and will create, revise and amend NAC 391 accordingly.
2. The Commission will continue to review existing NAC 391 regulations to make necessary revisions in response to national best practices, changing educator workforce trends, and other needs/requests from education stakeholders and other members of the community.
3. (a) The Commission will review and approve qualified Alternative Route to Licensure provider programs pursuant to NAC 391.461
(b) The Commission will review the evaluations of approved Alternative Route to Licensure providers pursuant to NAC 391.461 and NRS 391.039
4. The Commission will review existing and proposed competency testing models pursuant to NAC 391.036 for continued acceptance or new adoption.
5. The Commission will engage a variety of stakeholders in discussions regarding licensure requirements to ensure Nevada's licensure regulations are consistent and relevant.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS REQUIRED OF THE COMMISSION ON
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION
2017-2018**

- Assembly Bill 234 of the 2015 Legislative Session made revisions to NRS 389 and NRS 391, directing The Council on Academic Standards and The Commission on Professional Standards in Education to adopt regulatory changes in regard to the addition of Multicultural Education requirements.
 - The Nevada Department of Education assisted with the establishment of a working group to assist in developing the definition of multicultural education, the appropriate coursework content, and licensure recommendations regarding renewal requirements. As a result of this collaborative effort the Department was able to bring drafted regulatory language establishing the requirements and content for such a course before the Commission for public hearing at their September 19, 2018 meeting. The Commission voted to adopt the regulation and it is currently awaiting final review and approval by the Legislative Commission.

- Assembly Bill 77 of the 2017 Legislative Session made a number of revisions to NRS 391. These included changes to the makeup and duties of the Commission, as well as certain changes to educator licensure requirements.
 - The membership of the Commission was expanded from nine positions to eleven, with the addition of one member who is an early childhood educator and one who has expertise in the operation of a business. The Commission was also given purview over approval of traditional programs of educator preparation, in addition to its existing responsibility to review and approve ARL provider programs.
 - As a result of the changes in AB 77, educators who hold a valid Nevada license may now add an additional secondary or middle school endorsement to that license simply by passing a content test in the endorsement area to be added.
 - AB 77 also streamlined reciprocity for educators who hold a valid license in another state, and provided for an individual who holds a Nevada license to add a secondary or middle school endorsement to that license by passing a subject area competency examination in lieu of coursework.
 - Members have been seated in both new Commission positions, and the Commission has amended a number of regulations in response to the statutory changes to educator licensure requirements and licensure reciprocity.

- Assembly Bill 124 of the 2017 Legislative Session directed the Commission to adopt a code of ethics for Nevada Educators, and created the Nevada Educator Code of Ethics Advisory Group to help inform the Commission's decision.
 - The Advisory Group studied codes of educator ethics and best practices in place in other states and recommended that the Commission adopt the Model Code of Ethics for Educators (MCEE). The MCEE was developed by a national task force that included teachers, paraprofessionals, site- and district-level administrators, state education agency representatives, and content experts from across the United States. It directly addresses the five essential areas of responsibility required by AB 124.

- The Commission voted on June 20, 2018 to adopt the MCEE for use in Nevada, and the adopted regulation is currently awaiting final review and approval by the Legislative Commission.
- Assembly Bill 196 of the 2017 Legislative Session directed the Commission to create an endorsement in cultural competency and to establish in regulation the requirements for an educator to add that endorsement to his or her license.
 - The Department consulted with a number of stakeholders within the community on how such an endorsement should look. Based upon their input, Department staff proposed requirements for both a cultural competency endorsement and a higher-level cultural competency specialist endorsement requiring additional coursework and work experience beyond that required for the initial cultural competency endorsement.
 - On September 19, 2018 the Commission voted to adopt the endorsement and associated requirements, and the adopted regulation is awaiting final review and approval by the Legislative Commission.
- Senate Bill 20 of the 2017 Legislative Session removed from NRS the requirement that educators show competency in Nevada school law and the Nevada and United States constitutions as a condition of licensure.
 - To conform to this change, the Commission repealed NAC 391.030, which required such a demonstration of competency through either testing or coursework, in January of 2018, and the Legislative Commission approved the repeal in June of 2018.
 - Senate Bill 20 also directed the Commission to establish by regulation the contents of training on Nevada school law and the Nevada constitution, to be completed by licensed educators within one year of employment with a school district in this State. The Commission and the Department have been involved in discussions with school districts and training providers to establish what the content of this training should include, and to determine the best way to provide the required training to educators statewide. The Commission remains committed to continuing this work to completion and will work closely with the Department and other stakeholders to accomplish this.

**REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION ON
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION
2017-2018**

- R047-17 (not yet added to NAC)** – Created a music therapist license, which will allow a person holding an occupational license as a music therapist in Nevada to provide services within schools.
- R048-17 (NAC 391.036)** – Updated competency testing requirements for educators and aligned reciprocity requirements with current practices.
- R049-17 (NAC 391.057)** – Updated ARL licensure requirements to better align with statute and current practices.
- R050-17 (NAC 391.111)** – Revised the requirements to obtain a license or endorsement to teach middle school or junior high school so that an applicant can now add a middle school endorsement to an existing license by passing a subject area examination in the area of the endorsement, pursuant to the provisions of Assembly Bill 77 in the 79th (2017) Legislative Session.
- R051-17 (NAC 391.120, 391.125)** – Aligned endorsement areas for career and technical education with CTE subject areas specified in NAC 389.803; pursuant to Assembly Bill 77 in the 79th (2017) Legislative session, also revised the requirements to obtain a secondary license or endorsement so that an applicant can now add a secondary endorsement to an existing license by passing a subject area examination in the area of the endorsement, and made conforming changes in other regulations.
- R052-17 (NAC 391.171)** – Revised requirements to obtain an ARL license with an endorsement as a school administrator, to allow for multiple pathways to licensure for candidates in rural counties.
- R053-17 (NAC 391.030, 391.332)** - Revised requirements to obtain a substitute teaching license, exempting substitutes from the requirement to pass competency examinations in reading, writing and mathematics, and exempting substitutes from license renewal requirements.
- R077-17 (not yet added to NAC)** – Established requirements to obtain an endorsement to teach physical education and health at all grade levels K-12.
- R079-17 (NAC 391.1301)** – Removed secondary physical education and health from the list of secondary major and minor areas of endorsement, as it has been replaced by the K-12 physical education and health endorsement.
- R080-17 (NAC 391.170)** – Revised requirements to obtain a school administrator endorsement so that applicants must now have five years of teaching experience instead of three years, and removed the requirement for an applicant for a school administrator endorsement to hold a valid teaching license at the time of application.
- R081-17 (NAC 391.098)** – Repealed elementary endorsements in specific subject areas.
- R082-17 (NAC 391.096)** – Changed the existing elementary physical education license to an elementary and middle school physical education license.
- R102-17 (NAC 391.030, 391.036, 391.054, 391.056, 391.233, 391.330, 391.425, 391.436)** – Pursuant to Senate Bill 20 in the 79th (2017) Legislative Session, repealed NAC 391.030, which required licensed educators to show competency in Nevada school law, the Nevada Constitution and the U.S. Constitution, and made conforming changes in other regulations.

- R103-17 (NAC 391.060)** – Changed the period of validity of a license issued to a National Board Certified educator to directly align with the period of validity of the individual’s National Board Certificate.
- R104-17 (NAC 391.160, 391.175)** - Removed supervisor of curriculum and instruction from the list of administrative endorsements issued by the Department, and repealed the requirements to obtain such an endorsement.
- R105-17 (NAC 391.0895, 391.335)** – Repealed regulations allowing for the issuance of a special license or endorsement to teach pupils in grades 5-9.
- R106-17 (NAC 391.339)** – Repealed the regulation allowing for the issuance of an endorsement to teach mathematics to pupils in grades 5-8.
- R107-17 (NAC 391.054, 391.057, 391.0573, 391.0575, 391.0577)** – Updates regulations referencing conditional licensure to align language with changes to NRS pursuant to Assembly Bill 77 in the 79th (2017) Legislative Session.
- R122-17 (NAC 391.113)** – Removed specific references to “grades 7, 8 and 9” in reference to middle school or junior high school for purposes relating to the authority conveyed by a license to teach middle school or junior high school, and updated language to align with the changes to NAC 391.111 in R050-17.
- R123-17 (NAC 391.125, 391.130)** – Limited the authority of a holder of a secondary license to teaching at the high school level, and updated language to align with the changes to NAC 391.120 in R051-17.
- R124-17 (NAC 391.461)** – Added language specifying the makeup of the review team to be appointed by the Commission to review applications from prospective providers of programs for alternative route to licensure.
- R008-18 (NAC 391.13096, 391.255, 391.282, 391.285, 391.290)** – Updated language to remove references to business and industry endorsements on licenses which cannot be endorsed for business and industry, and updated requirements for renewal of an endorsement to teach reading.
- R009-18 (NAC 391.036, 391.330)** - Provided for the issuance of a license as an emergency substitute rather than an endorsement in that area, changed the period of validity of such a license from three years to one year, placed limitations on how many times such a license may be issued to or renewed for an individual, and made conforming changes to other regulations.
- R010-18 (NAC 391.425)** – Updated the requirements to obtain or renew a business and industry license.
- R011-18 (NAC 391.480)** – Updated the circumstances under which a school district or governing body of a charter school must notify the Department of the arrest of a licensed educator in its employ, in order to better align them with the definition of moral turpitude established in R136-15.

**REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION ON
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION
PENDING HEARING AND APPROVAL BY
THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION**

- R009-17 (NAC 391.192, 391.196, 391.202)** – Revises requirements to obtain endorsements to teach computer science at all levels, updates terminology relating to computer technology-based applications, and repeals endorsement to teach computer concepts, skills, and basic applications.
- R078-17 (not yet added to NAC)** – Establishes the requirements to obtain an endorsement to serve as a mental health professional in a school.
- R004-18 (NAC 391.0585)** – Repeals the duplicative provision allowing for the issuance of an alternate special qualifications license.
- R005-18 (NAC 391.090, 391.096, 391.098, 391.100)** – Replaces references to “kindergarten through eighth grade” with “elementary grades” for purposes relating to the authority conveyed by an elementary license and the requirements to obtain such a license.
- R007-18 (NAC 391.111, 391.131, 391.1312)** – Updates requirements to obtain a secondary license and available secondary single-subject endorsement areas, eliminates designated single-subject major and minor areas of endorsement for career and technical education, and makes other conforming changes.
- R012-18 (NAC 391.0583)** – Revises the qualifications for issuance and renewal of a special qualifications license, and broadens the subject areas for which such a license may be issued.
- R069-18 (NAC 391.13062 and various others)** – Repeals coursework requirements for certain career and technical education single-subject major and minor areas of endorsement, and makes other conforming changes.
- R071-18 (NAC 391.13065)** – Updates the requirements to obtain a career and technical education endorsement to teach automotive service technology.
- R105-18 (NAC 391.087, 391.089)** – Provides for the issuance of a license to teach early childhood education rather than an endorsement in that area, in conformance with statutory changes prescribed in Assembly Bill 77 in the 79th (2017) Legislative Session.
- R106-18 (NAC 391.378)** – Updates the requirements to obtain an endorsement to teach pupils with autism.
- R107-18 (NAC 391.036, 391.436)** – Updates the requirements to obtain an endorsement as a substitute teacher of business and industry, and makes other conforming changes.
- R117-18 (NAC 391.277)** – Updates the requirements to obtain an endorsement to provide services to pupils in a program of occupational therapy.
- R118-18 (NAC 391.036, 391.363)** – Updates the requirements to obtain an endorsement to teach pupils who have disabilities and are under eight years of age in a program of early childhood special education.
- R119-18 (NAC 391.370)** – Updates the requirements to obtain an endorsement to teach pupils who have speech and language impairments.

- R130-18 (not yet added to NAC)** – Establishes the requirements for the course in multicultural education required by NRS 391.0347, and makes conforming changes in other sections of NAC.
- R158-18 (NAC 391.305)** – Updates the requirements to obtain an endorsement to serve as a school nurse, and exempts school nurses from educator competency testing requirements.
- R159-18 (not yet added to NAC)** – Establishes requirements to obtain an endorsement to teach Navajo language and government.
- R160-18 (not yet added to NAC)** – Establishes requirements to obtain an endorsement in cultural competency, pursuant to the provisions of Assembly Bill 196 in the 79th (2017) Legislative Session.
- R161-18 (not yet added to NAC)** – Adopts the Model Code of Ethics for Educators as Nevada’s educator code of ethics, pursuant to the provisions of Assembly Bill 124 in the 79th (2017) Legislative Session.

**REGULATIONS PENDING PUBLIC HEARING BY THE
COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION**

- R031-18 (NAC 391.010, 391.461, 391.463, 391.557, 391.558, 391.560)** – Amends the process for institutions of higher education or programs for alternative route to licensure to become Nevada approved educator preparation programs, and more closely aligns the process and requirements for alternative route programs with those for traditional programs.
- R110-18 (NAC 391.065, 391.075)** – Updates the requirements to renew an educator’s license.
- R112-18 (NAC 391.056)** – Revises the term of provisional, nonrenewable educator licenses, establishing a tiered provision structure with three different terms of validity based upon the nature of the deficiency for which a provision was issued.
- R113-18 (NAC 391.391)** – Updates the requirements to obtain a license to provide services in a program of orientation and mobility.
- R114-18 (NAC 391.087, 391.089)** – Removes outdated language from the requirements to obtain a license in early childhood education, establishes early childhood education as a stand-alone license rather than an endorsement on a special license pursuant to Assembly Bill 77 in the 79th (2017) Legislative Session, and makes conforming changes to multiple other regulations.
- R115-18 (NAC 391.036, 391.185)** – Exempts school counselors from core competency testing, and updates requirements for licensure as a school counselor.
- R116-18 (NAC 391.252)** – Updates the requirements to obtain an endorsement to teach in a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program.
- R154-18 (Not yet added to NAC)** – Creates an endorsement in Social, Emotional, and Academic Development and establishes requirements to obtain the endorsement.