



Application Packet for Nevada Superintendent of Public Instruction

Visionary Leadership – [REDACTED]

Subject: Visionary Leadership & Strategic Education Alignment for NDE

Dear Ms. Ford and Esteemed Board and Committee Members,

It is with great enthusiasm that I express my continued interest in contributing to Nevada's Department of Education. My educational journey spans every level of the teaching and leadership pyramid—from classroom aide to special needs assistant, teacher, lead and master teacher, site supervisor, and founder of a home-based and heritage school program. These roles, across multiple California districts, have allowed me to witness the immediate needs of classrooms and campuses and develop effective, scalable solutions.

I am committed to bringing this same excellence and insight to Nevada. My goal is to help align state standards, programs, and funding strategies to accelerate student success and campus performance. With the heart of both an educator and parent, I uniquely understand how to elevate faculty support, improve student outcomes, and streamline systems to maximize effectiveness.

I've contributed significantly to educational policy, including service on the Local Planning Council, chairing governance ad hoc committees, and shaping LA County's strategic plans and Governor Newsom's Master Plan. I also played a key role in designing UPK frameworks and P-3 credential pathways, and have helped campuses avoid closures and increase compliance ratings.

Through [REDACTED] we've developed a national formula for academic alignment, improved retention, and measurable school transformation. Due to its proprietary nature, we can only share full details under a signed NDA or co-leadership agreement.

I would be honored to lead and partner in positioning NDE as a national model of student-centered, equity-driven education. Thank you for your consideration.

Warm regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

"Empower Today, Transform Tomorrow."

"Every child deserves a [REDACTED] Clear path to succeed."

Letter of Interest

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

July 10, 2025

Dear Ms. Ford,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic interest in the position of State Superintendent of Public Instruction for the Nevada Department of Education (NDE). With a steadfast commitment to equity, innovation, and student-centered reform, I bring over two decades of experience leading diverse education initiatives that have yielded immediate, measurable improvements across systems, from early childhood to K-12.

As Founder and Director of [REDACTED], I have successfully built bridges among school districts, community leaders, childcare providers, families, and young learners through culturally responsive and data-driven strategies. My lived experience as a solution-oriented strategist and equity champion uniquely equips me to lead NDE's critical work across rural and urban contexts.

I envision Nevada as a national model for inclusive excellence—where every student, regardless of background, graduates ready to thrive. I would be honored to lead our state toward that vision by cultivating a responsive, collaborative, and outcomes-focused department grounded in Nevada's Portrait of a Learner.

Thank you for considering my candidacy. I am excited to bring my passion, knowledge, and leadership to the NDE team and look forward to the opportunity to advance equity and excellence across the Silver State.

With sincere commitment,

[REDACTED]

Resume:

Founder & Executive Director, [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED] | Phone: [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]

(Previously had to move from Henderson NV ready to move back and be an asset to our educational system and students achievements)

SUMMARY

Strategic and equity-focused educational leader with 20+ years of experience leading systemic change across early childhood, K-12, and community-based education systems. Founder of [REDACTED], an innovative movement that bridges educational equity gaps through family-centered programs, professional development, and policy impact. National advocate for education, youth in foster care, underserved students, and culturally responsive learning.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Systems Improvement Leadership
- Equity & Access Policy Strategy
- Foster Youth & Marginalized Student Advocacy
- School District & Agency Partnership Building
- Federal & State Grant Program Oversight
- Culturally Responsive Curriculum Design
- Strategic Planning & Executive Coaching
- Family, School, and Community Engagement

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

[REDACTED] – Founder & Director | California & Nevada (2010–Present)

- Developed and scaled award-winning family education models serving 10,000+ children, parents, and educators.
- Partnered with school districts, city agencies, and nonprofits to implement whole-child initiatives in early education.
- Launched “Future Leaders” and “[REDACTED] Cares” pilot programs supporting reentry youth, foster care students, and disconnected learners with workforce pathways, mentorship, and wraparound services.
- Provided executive training, cultural proficiency workshops, and systems-level coaching to educational leaders.

Los Angeles County Office of Education – Equity Specialist (Consultant Role)

- Led community feedback sessions and educator development aligned to state mandates for inclusive learning.
- Co-designed tools for tracking academic equity indicators, particularly among English Learners and BIPOC youth.

Nonprofit & District Leadership Roles – Early Childhood Director, Program Manager

- Managed multi-million dollar grants across Head Start, First 5 California, and school readiness programs.
- Directed inclusive preschool sites serving children with disabilities, dual language

Updated 1-Page Vision and Plan Statement with Added Impact Section

Strategic Vision for Nevada Department of Education Leadership

Leading Nevada with Equity, Excellence, and Innovation

My vision for the Nevada Department of Education is one rooted in *transformational equity*, *data-driven strategy*, and *community-powered excellence*. As Superintendent, I will lead with intentionality to ensure every student—regardless of race, zip code, ability, or language—has access to high-quality, engaging, and future-ready education.

Strategic Priorities:

- 1. Bridging Opportunity Gaps Through Equity-Based Funding & Targeted Support**
Expand the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan by aligning resources to historically underfunded students and schools while embedding trauma-informed, culturally responsive practices.
- 2. Strengthening the Educator Pipeline**
Launch a "[REDACTED] Clear Educators of Nevada" initiative to recruit, mentor, and retain diverse, high-quality teachers and leaders—including accelerated licensure pathways, especially for rural and multilingual educators.
- 3. Data + Lived Experience = Smart Policy**
Implement community-engaged data dashboards that center student and family voices, ensuring policies reflect real-time needs from classrooms to boardrooms.
- 4. Innovation in Access and Delivery**
Scale hybrid learning hubs and digital access programs statewide—ensuring every learner is digitally literate and connected.
- 5. Early Learning & Family Engagement**
Expand high-quality PreK and early childhood education under a statewide early care hub network, empowering families as co-educators.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, I have led with visionary urgency to bring healing, hope, and transformation to our most impacted children and families. Through [REDACTED] *Clear Academics*™, I designed rapid-response systems that uplifted communities, repaired inequities, and restored learning environments with culturally responsive support and trauma-informed care. That same excellence, tenacity, and impact now fuels my commitment to serve Nevada's students, educators, and families at the highest level.

With unwavering belief in collective brilliance, I am ready to be the change, shift, and sustainable solution for the Nevada Department of Education. My leadership has already proven effective in influencing policies, strengthening school systems, and transforming the educational experience for thousands of students. I bring the same sense of purpose, urgency, and innovation to the NDE—to lead with equity, serve with integrity, and act boldly for the success of every learner in Nevada.

learners, and trauma-impacted families.

- Trained and supervised over 250 staff in positive behavior supports, family partnerships, and data-informed planning.

EDUCATION & CREDENTIALS

- Master's in Education Leadership (in progress)
- Bachelor of Arts in Child & Adolescent Development
- Licensed Trainer, Social-Emotional Learning & Trauma-Informed Practices
- Certificates in Nonprofit Management, Equity Policy Reform, and Instructional Leadership

AWARDS & AFFILIATIONS

- Women in Leadership Impact Award (2023)
- Advisory Member – California Equity in Education Task Force
- Board Member – Foster Youth Educational Success Collaborative

[REDACTED]

Strategic Vision and Plan Statement

Leading Nevada with Equity, Excellence, and Innovation



My vision for the Nevada Department of Education is one rooted in transformational equity, data-driven strategy, and community-powered excellence. As Superintendent, I will lead with intentional urgency and effectiveness to ensure every student—regardless of race, zip code, ability, or language—has access to high-quality, engaging, and future-ready education.

Strategic Priorities:

1. Bridging Opportunity Gaps Through Equity-Based Funding & Targeted Support
2. Strengthening the Educator Pipeline
3. Data + Lived Experience = Smart Policy
4. Innovation in Access and Delivery
5. Early Learning & Family Engagement

As a founder, mother, and systems-change leader, I know firsthand that when we listen, lead boldly, and invest equitably, Nevada's children rise. I am ready to serve as Nevada's next Superintendent with integrity, urgency, and a clear vision for success.

Letter of Recommendation for [REDACTED]

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great enthusiasm that I recommend [REDACTED] for the position of State Superintendent of Public Instruction for the Nevada Department of Education. I have had the privilege of working alongside [REDACTED] in her capacity as a leader on the Local Planning Council and as a founding member of First 5 LA's Provider Advisory Committee. Her visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to educational equity make her an exceptional candidate for this vital statewide role.

[REDACTED] contributions have left a significant mark on California's early learning landscape. She was instrumental in shaping Universal PreKindergarten (UPK) implementation strategies that centered community voice and provider realities. Her advocacy for early educators and marginalized children directly influenced the development of the P-3rd grade credential and special permit pathways—providing a sustainable workforce solution for diverse educators serving our youngest learners.

[REDACTED] brings lived experience, policy expertise, and strategic foresight to every table she joins. During the height of the COVID-19 crisis, she rapidly mobilized healing-centered programs through her organization, [REDACTED] ensuring children and families had access to culturally responsive resources and trauma-informed care. Her work bridged urgent gaps in systems and delivered transformational results.

What sets [REDACTED] apart is not just her ability to lead but her ability to lead with purpose, integrity, and inclusivity. She is a systems thinker, coalition builder, and relentless problem-solver who has consistently advanced outcomes for historically underserved students—especially foster youth, multilingual learners, and children in high-need communities.

With her deep understanding of education policy, community partnership, and equitable reform, I have no doubt that [REDACTED] would serve the Nevada Department of Education with excellence. She embodies the qualities of a superintendent who leads with courage and compassion, and who acts boldly to ensure that every student in Nevada has the opportunity to thrive.

She has my highest recommendation for this position.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Orozco

Program Officer/First 5 Los Angeles

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Reference Letter #1 – Community Leader / Partnering Agency Perspective

Date: July 11, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my honor to provide this letter of reference for [REDACTED], an exceptional educational leader and visionary behind [REDACTED]. I have had the privilege of partnering with [REDACTED] on multiple district, county, and community initiatives focused on equity, family engagement, and educational access for underserved youth.

[REDACTED] leadership throughout the COVID-19 pandemic was nothing short of transformational. At a time of unprecedented uncertainty, she mobilized a network of childcare providers, educators, and family systems to deliver healing-centered services, educational continuity, and trauma-informed support to our most vulnerable students—including foster youth, multilingual learners, and children with disabilities. Her programs didn't just "fill the gap"—they became the model.

She is an extraordinary systems thinker and a coalition builder who leads with both heart and strategy. Her work is deeply rooted in equity, cultural responsiveness, and real-time solutions. She uplifts communities through innovation, transparency, and a relentless commitment to excellence.

I am confident that [REDACTED] would serve the Nevada Department of Education with distinction, purpose, and integrity. She has my highest recommendation for the role of State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Sincerely,

Cristina Gonzalez Implementation and Advocacy Manager

www.AP-OD.ORG

1000 N. Alameda St STE., Suite 240 Los Angeles, CA, 90012

Abriendo Puertas / Los Angeles Unified School District

cgonzalez@ap-od.org] [REDACTED]

Reference Letter #2 – School District or Program Director Perspective

Date: July 11, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great enthusiasm that I recommend [REDACTED] for the role of State Superintendent of Public Instruction. As a longtime collaborator and admirer of her work, I have witnessed her visionary leadership, strategic execution, and unwavering commitment to improving educational systems for all children—especially those most overlooked.

Through her work at [REDACTED] has served as a driving force in reforming early learning practices, family engagement, and youth reentry systems across urban and rural communities. Her ability to lead across sectors—whether with superintendents, state legislators, parent networks, or classroom teachers—is unparalleled.

What sets [REDACTED] apart is not only her educational expertise but her courageous leadership during crises. During COVID-19, she helped districts and providers transition to hybrid learning models, embed trauma-informed practices, and prioritize the social-emotional recovery of students and staff alike.

She is an agent of change who leads with compassion, clarity, and cultural humility. Nevada's students, educators, and communities would thrive under her leadership.

Sincerely,

Dean S. Tagawa DTAGAWA@LAUSD.NET | [REDACTED]
Executive Director Early Education

Los Angeles Unified School District

Early Childhood Education Division

333 South Beaudry Ave , 11th Floor

Los Angeles, CA 90017

July 11,, 2025,

Dear NDE Selection Panel:

I am writing regarding [REDACTED] who has expressed a desire to be considered to serve on the Superintendent of Public Instructions for NDE.. I have the pleasure of collaborating with [REDACTED] in her role as a member of the Local Child Care Planning Council (LPC) in Los Angeles County. I staff the LPC in my role at the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education.

Key Strengths:

- **Expertise in Early Education:** [REDACTED] has extensive experience in early care and education, serving as an educator, advocate, and community representative. She has a comprehensive understanding of both Family Child Care and center-based settings, ensuring high-quality learning environments that meet diverse needs. Her expertise in curriculum development, family engagement, and quality improvement initiatives allows her to support and enhance early learning programs effectively.
- **Leadership & Collaboration:** [REDACTED] has demonstrated strong leadership and collaboration skills, working closely with early care and education programs, nonprofits, and community organizations throughout Los Angeles County. As an active member of the Local Planning Council (LPC), she provides valuable insights on challenges faced by families and child care providers. Her ability to foster partnerships and advocate for systemic improvements makes her a trusted and respected leader in the field.
- **Policy Understanding:** [REDACTED] actively participates in multiple collaboratives and advisory groups, contributing her expertise to strengthen policies that support early care and education. Her deep understanding of funding structures, regulatory policies, and workforce challenges allows her to provide thoughtful and informed input on policy decisions. She remains committed to ensuring that both families and child care professionals have a voice in shaping policies that impact the field.
- **Advocacy Skills:** [REDACTED] is a dedicated advocate who brings firsthand knowledge of the complexities of operating a child care program. She uses her experience to identify challenges, propose solutions, and push for meaningful policy changes that support providers and families. Her ability to engage with stakeholders, communicate key issues, and influence decision-making processes makes her an invaluable asset to the early care and education community.

Potential Contribution to NDE:

██████ possesses extensive experience and expertise in working with children and families, gained over many years through the provision of high-quality environments. Her deep understanding and dedication make her an ideal candidate to contribute to the NDE and further the mission of the organization. ██████ excels in making learning engaging and enjoyable through effective engaging strategies while sharing valuable ideas and resources with families and caregivers. She is a valuable asset to any agency or organization she joins, offering thoughtful feedback to support children, families, and educators.

Please don't hesitate to contact me for any additional information.

Sincerely,

Zenaida Meza

Program Manager

Telephone: ██████████

Email: ████████████████████