

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION
FEBRUARY 19, 2025
9:30 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	Silver Ore Room
Department of Education	YouTube Live Stream w/captions	n/a	Link

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION MEETING

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

President Amy Rozar
Commissioner Kenny Belknap
Commissioner Meredith Freeman
Commissioner Jason Ginoza
Commissioner Joseph Morgan

In Carson City:

Commissioner Hope Blinco

Virtually:

Commissioner Christina Tucker
Commissioner Jamie Hawkins

COMMISSION MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Vice President Shartriya Collier
Commissioner Michele Haugen
Commissioner Derild Parsons
Commissioner Jordan Wenger

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

Jeff Briske, Director, Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement (EDLiFE)
Dayona Turner, Education Programs Professional, EDLiFE
Sina Anae, Skillbridge Intern, EDLiFE
Geri Mendiola, Administrative Assistant III, EDLiFE

In Carson City:

Jackie Nygaard, Educations Programs Professional, EDLiFE
Heidi McEntire, IT Technician, Information Technology

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT:

Senior Deputy Attorney General David M. Gardner (Virtually)

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE

In Las Vegas:

None

Carson City:

None

Presenters:

Heather Mattson, Senior Program Manager, West Ed

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

President Rozar called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. Roll call attendance was taken as reflected above and a quorum was established. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Morgan.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

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

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Rozar welcomed everyone in attendance to the Commission on Professional Standards in Education meeting. President Rozar acknowledged and expressed the Commission was happy to celebrate Career and Technical Education Month, African American History Month and Financial Aid Awareness Month.

4. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Jeff Briske Director, Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement (EDLiFE) introduced Dayona Turner, Education Programs Professional, who oversees the Title IIA funding for the Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement (EDLiFE). Director Briske extended the opportunity for Dayona Turner to introduce herself. Dayona Turner briefly introduced herself and stated that she had recently relocated from Ohio, where she was working for the Department of Education, overseeing the Title IV program. She also mentioned that she had been working in State service since 2012.

Director Briske expressed his contentment with having her as part of the Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement (EDLiFE). Director Briske welcomed her to her new position, overseeing Title IIA funding.

Director Briske congratulated the University of Nevada, Reno, for achieving national accreditation from the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation. This accreditation will waive much of the State approval process of their educator preparation programs, leaving only a compliance check for the Department to conduct.

Director Briske concluded his report by mentioning, that he and President Rozar will be in Carson City for the March meeting. There they will hear from the University of Nevada, Reno and be given a presentation on their programs.

5. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 15, 2025, MINUTES (*Information/Discussion/For possible action*)

President Rozar asked the Commission if they would like to discuss the January 15, 2025, minutes. No discussion was made regarding the January 15, 2025, minutes. President Rozar entertained a motion to approve the January 15th meeting minutes.

Motion: Commissioner Morgan moved to approve the January 15, 2025, meeting minutes. Commissioner Belknap seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

6. PUBLIC HEARING FOR T005-24 ENDORSEMENT FOR A SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST ASSISTANT AND NAC 391.319. (*Information/Discussion/For possible action*)

President Rozar opened a Public Hearing at 9:38 a.m. to solicit comments on proposed temporary regulation T005-24 amending NAC Chapter 391.XXX, 391.319 and Regulation 124-22. The proposed regulation will define the length of time for a school psychologist assistant license and allow an applicant to obtain a provisional license as a school psychologist without the advanced degree requirement. The Commission may adopt or not adopt this temporary regulation. President Rozar then extended Director Briske the opportunity to further discuss the temporary regulation.

Director Briske began by stating that when the Commission adopted Regulation 124-22, one piece was missing and another piece needed to be edited. He explained that for the school psychology assistant license, the length of the license was not defined in regulation. He then clarified that at the bottom of page 3, in green text, it was noted that this license will be valid for five (5) years and is renewable. He pointed out that in the middle of page 15, in green text, it was noted that an additional update allows applicants for a provisional license as a school psychologist to obtain the license without an advanced degree. This exception is upheld if they meet the coursework requirements, are enrolled in a preparation program while earning their advanced degree and completing their internship hours. He then clarified that candidates would need to have earned an advanced degree to convert their provisional license to a standard license.

After no further discussion, President Rozar entertained a motion to adopt regulation T005-24.

Motion: Commissioner Belknap moved to approve temporary regulation T005-24 to be moved to a Public Hearing. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

7. PRESENTATION OF THE PRAXIS II REPORT. (*Information/Discussion/For possible action*)

The Commission heard and considered the approval of the Praxis II Report required by Assembly Bill 428 from the 82nd legislative session in 2023. The Commission may approve or not approve the report.

President Rozar turned the conversation over to Director Briske.

Director Briske began by stating that as required by Assembly Bill 428 Section 8, The Commission shall conduct a study during the 2003-2024 interim concerning the Praxis II and pedagogy examinations. The Commission will also present its recommendations to the Senate and Assembly Standing Committees on Education during the 83 Session, and adopt any regulations based on its findings. He continued by stating that on behalf of the Commission, the Department contracted with our partners at West Ed to conduct the research and host a work group for this report. He also mentioned that Commissioners Blinco and Morgan were part of the work group. Director Briske concluded by turning the conversation over to Heather Mattson, Senior Program Manager at West Ed for a presentation on Nevada's Content and Pedagogy Teacher Licensure Exams.

Mrs. Mattson started her presentation by giving an overview of their three main objectives. The first objective was to convene, plan and facilitate a workgroup session. The second objective was to conduct a scan of other states' alternative approaches to content and pedagogy exams. And the final objective was to summarize existing research on teacher content and pedagogy exams.

Workgroup members included:

- iTeach
- Nevada State University
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- Truckee Meadows Community College
- Clark County School District
- Mineral County School District
- Washoe County School District
- Nye County School District
- Public Education Foundation
- Nevada Legislature Member

Mrs. Mattson then began her overview of the report that was shared with the workgroup in their December 17th meeting. She stated that the first item shared was the existing research on content and pedagogy exams for teaching candidates. She mentioned that regarding the Praxis Core exams (foundational skills test for teacher candidates), and the Praxis II exams (content and pedagogy test for teacher candidates), the existing research did not include much delineation between both Praxis exams, however there was a lot of research that conflated them both. She explained that with that conflation, it was difficult to parse out the impacts of that research.

Mrs. Mattson stated that they found two recent studies that Connecticut contracted to be done on the Praxis II exams. She gave an overview of the findings within that study. She highlighted several impacts to include that most candidates eventually pass Praxis II exams, but first-attempted pass rates show disparities, especially among candidates of color. She continued in stating that based on the research, failing Praxis II exams on the first attempt, reduced the likelihood of certification by 8.4% overall, and then by 15.4% in STEM and Special Education. She noted that researchers created a process by which they could see teachers' potential contribution to student growth over an academic year. She continued in saying that candidates with higher value-added scores (which might indicate potentially effective teachers) were less likely to enter teaching if they failed the Praxis II exam on that initial attempt. She mentioned that one of the studies suggested exploring alternative pathways to

demonstrate content mastery while maintaining high standards, with the consideration that current policies might unintentionally screen out strong candidates.

Mrs. Mattson began to introduce the national utilization of Praxis II, Content-Area Tests and alternative measures used by other states. She first introduced the Praxis Bridge option, a module-based pathway for teacher candidates to demonstrate competence without fully taking the Praxis II exam. She noted that candidates who score within one standard of measure, can engage in competency-based learning modules tailored to strengthen their content understanding in areas where test performance was weaker. Successful module completion will result in certification. Connecticut, Kansas, West Virginia have implemented this option, and Nevada is currently in the process to implementing the Praxis Bridge. She then went on to introduce the Flex Test option, used again as an alternative for those that score within one standard of measure of passing licensure exams. Flex Tests contain focused content areas, adaptable formats and remediation to address knowledge gaps. Massachusetts is currently using this alternative as an option for those who do not wish to retake the Pearson exams.

Mrs. Mattson also presented the attestation process. This process enables Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) with the ability to validate a teaching candidate's subject matter expertise based on academic and educational achievements. This assessment can include coursework, fieldwork and overall educational performance. She clarified that despite California, Massachusetts, Oregon and Washington using this process, there is no universally agreed upon method for demonstrating content knowledge, so states use various means to conduct this in-depth process. Mrs. Mattson mentioned that reducing passing scores was another alternative option. Arkansas, Kentucky and New Jersey have modified their threshold that candidates must meet, to demonstrate readiness for certification. And lastly, she stated that some states employ a combination of the strategies discussed to address licensure requirements.

Mrs. Mattson referenced the workgroup decisions, as to which two of the previously mentioned alternative measures should be made as recommendations. The first recommendation from the work group was the Praxis Bridge option. This option is beneficial as a low-cost option for candidates with a one-time fee of fifty dollars (as opposed to the full retake cost). These candidates are then given 6 months to complete the modules. The Commission unanimously approved this alternative on January 15th, 2025, and this implementation would not require a change in regulation. However, the second recommendation would require a regulation change, and that is the attestation process. This would require foundational work from the Department of Education and the Education Preparation Programs, on how to satisfy this requirement as well as documentation. She mentioned that Director Briske and his team determined that this would require a full-time staff person using general funds to develop and maintain this option.

She then displayed a data chart, that would illustrate the impact of alternative measures for Nevada teacher candidates who score within standard measure of passing. This snapshot of data references one year's worth of scores, along with eight of the most-taken exams. She elaborated that there are many other exams and years of candidate scorings not accounted for in this chart. But she highlighted that just in this specific data, close to 100 candidates would be eligible to utilize the Praxis Bridge, or if approved the attestation process.

Mrs. Mattson concluded her report by opening up the discussion to further questions or comments.

Commissioner Ginoza asked about the attestation process, specifically whether it was used in lieu of a Praxis II exam or if it was a form of the Praxis Bridge.

Mrs. Mattson provided clarification in that a candidate would have to nearly have passed the Praxis II exam and be within one standard error of measurement of passing. She stated that it was in fact a separate alternative from the Praxis Bridge option.

Commission Morgan inquired about any research conducted on the long-term impacts such as retention in the field, for these relatively newer alternative measures.

Mrs. Mattson stated that there was potential to obtain that information for the attestation process from the states that currently use it, but she does not currently have that information for either recommended alternative measures.

President Rozar entertained a motion to approve the report concerning the Praxis II and the pedagogy study.

Motion: Commissioner Morgan moved to approve the report on Praxis II and Pedagogy Exams. Commissioner Ginoza seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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

- Competency Based Learning for Educator Preparation Programs
- Nevada Registered Apprenticeship Programs
- Praxis Bridge Pilot Presentation

9. PUBLIC COMMENT #2

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

10. ADJOURNMENT

President Rozar entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Commissioner Freeman moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Tucker seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 A.M.