

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION
JANUARY 17, 2024
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
Department of Education	YouTube Stream with captions	n/a	Link

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION MEETING

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

President Amy Rozar
Vice President Jennifer Davis
Commissioner Kenny Belknap
Commissioner Shartriya Collier
Commissioner Joseph Morgan
Commissioner Warren Shillingburg

In Carson City:

Commissioner Jamie Hawkins
Commissioner Sherry Mitchell

Virtually:

Commissioner Joseph Girdner
Commissioner Christina Tucker

COMMISSION MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Commissioner Meredith Freeman
Commissioner Jordan Wenger

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

Jeff Briske, Director, Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement (EDLiFE)
Anabel Sanchez, Education Programs Professional, EDLiFE
Geri Mendiola, Administrative Assistant III, EDLiFE
Cynthia Lopez, Skill Bridge Program Intern
Jeynalynn Collins, Skill Bridge Program Intern

In Carson City:

None

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT:

Senior Deputy Attorney General David Gardner (Virtually)

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE

In Las Vegas:

None

Carson City:

Mary Pierczynski, Nevada Association of School Superintendents (NASS)

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

President Rozar called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Roll call attendance was taken as reflected above and a quorum was established. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Shillingburg.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

There were no public comments in Carson City.

1. Debbie Walter, Human Resource Supervisor, Substitute Services & Licensing, Washoe County School District provided a written comment regarding the proposed NAC 391.XXX Interim Route to Certification Special Education Endorsement Qualifications. (Written comment is available in Appendix A)

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Rozar recognized School Board Appreciation Month and verbalized appreciation to those that volunteer and/or possess low paying positions who help guide school functions in Nevada. Additionally, President Rozar recognized National Mentoring Month and thanked community partners and the public for providing mentors. National Braille Literacy Month was also recognized along with the personnel who help provide materials to the students who require them. Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month was noted with the importance of teachers and staff being properly trained to recognize students that may be exhibiting behaviors of abuse and resources being provided for them. President Rozar recognized the loss of CCSD Police Officer Craft, Mojave High School, that lost his life due to a medical episode while on duty. A twenty-second moment of silence was observed.

4. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Jeff Briske, Director, Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement (EDLiFE) provided updates to the Commission on the status of several regulations pending.

- Five regulations are pending State Board approval prior to advancing to the Legislative Commission for final adoption.

- Public Hearings and Public Workshops will take place at the February meeting for several regulations.
- The Commission will continue to conduct discussions, workshops, and hearings for several regulations at the March and April meetings.
- Public Hearings for regulations completed by the May meeting would continue with State Board approval and final Legislative adoption after May to become law.

Director Briske introduced our Skill Bridge interns, Jeynalynn Collins and Cynthia Lopez who are working with the Nevada Department of Education. The Skill Bridge Program provides opportunities for Service members to gain valuable civilian work experience through job training, employment skills training, and internship opportunities during the final 1-6 months of military service prior to release from active duty.

This concludes the Secretary's Report.

5. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 15, 2023, MINUTES (*Information/Discussion/For possible action*)

President Rozar asked the Commission if they would like to discuss the November 15, 2023, minutes. No discussion was made regarding the November 15, 2023, minutes. President Rozar entertained a motion to approve the November meeting minutes.

Motion: Commissioner Morgan moved to approve the November 15, 2023, meeting minutes. Vice President Davis seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

6. PRAXIS WORKGROUP AND ADDITIONAL FINDERS. (*Information/Discussion*)

Jeff Briske, Director, Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement (EDLiFE) and Heather Mattson, Senior Research Associate, WestEd presented a Power Point presentation. EDLiFE contracted with WestED to address Assembly Bill 225 (2021). The scope of this project facilitated three workgroup sessions conducting research of other states' approaches to teacher certification in lieu of teacher exams and summarizing existing research on certification options in lieu of exams. Suggestions of regulation changes that are not required are the acceptable passing score by one standard error of measurement and accepting the composite score (combined reading, writing, and math subtest scores) with a minimum for each subtest. Records showed from March 23, 2023, to July 1, 2023, 71 Nevada teachers with a provision on their license were able to become fully credentialed due to the score change. The process of accepting a composite score with a minimum for each subtest was explained and requirements for this option were stated. Research studies for North Carolina and North Dakota, the only other two states accepting composite scores, were shown with North Carolina projecting higher scores than North Dakota and Nevada. North Carolina and North Dakota began this process several years ago and both states hired programmers to build a tabulation system that would not require them to manually calculate composite scores. The price of hiring programmers to build this system in Nevada would be substantially higher due to the time frame of when it was first completed in other states. The impact of this process has not been tracked in either North Carolina or North Dakota.

Workgroup suggestions that require regulation change were also discussed. The acceptance of measures other than the Praxis Core (acceptable passing score on ACT or SAT) was reiterated and recognized as becoming law on June 2, 2023. Accepting coursework approved by the Department with a 3.0 GPA, after the first Praxis attempt, is currently being drafted to comply with AB 428 (2023). The workgroup's first meeting was held January 8, 2024. The purpose is to find appropriate coursework that meets the intent of AB 428 in the areas of reading, writing, and mathematics and to make recommendations to the Commission regarding coursework.

President Rozar thanked Heather Mattson for her presentation and asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the material discussed. There were no questions or discussions.

7. **NAC 391.045 (1)(b) AND (c) AS AMENDED BY R076-19 – APPLICATION FOR LICENSE OR ENDORSEMENT: REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION; FEE; APPLICABILITY OF ACADEMIC CREDITS; NAC 391.XXX – RENEWAL OF LICENSE: ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT TO COMPLETE COURSE IN PARENT INVOLVEMENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT FOR TEACHERS AND WITHOUT LIMITATION OTHER EDUCATIONAL PERSONNEL INITIALLY LICENSED ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 2015; REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE; APPLICABILITY OF CREDITS TOWARD OTHER REQUIREMENTS; NAC 391.111 – LICENSE TO TEACH MIDDLE SCHOOL OR JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION: QUALIFICATIONS; REQUIREMENTS AND RECOGNIZED SUBJECTS FOR ENDORSEMENT; EXCEPTION; NAC 391.120 – QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSURE; QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSE WITH ENDORSEMENT IN CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION; NAC 391.215 – ENDORSEMENT TO TEACH ART; AND NAC 391.270 – ENDORSEMENT TO TEACH MUSIC. (*Information/Discussion*)**

Director Briske explained this was discussed in a previous meeting and the wording was amended for better understanding. NAC 391.045 was already amended by R076-19 but is not yet codified into NAC. When the Legislative Council Bureau (LCB) writes the regulation language for workshop, they will first update NAC 391.045 as they have with previous regulations. Both items have been provided in meeting materials. The intent of this regulation is to remove the special education course work from NAC 391.045 as this requirement is already included in the initial preparation program training for early childhood and elementary and move the required Parent Involvement and Family Engagement (PIFE) course from a provision on an initial license to a renewal requirement if the applicant did not already complete an approved course at any time prior to application for renewal. Additionally, the intent is to add the special education course work to the middle (NAC 391.111) and secondary (NAC 391.120) initial prep program licensure requirements that was removed from NAC 391.045. The special education course work was also included in the K-12 Art (NAC 319.215) and K-12 Music (NAC 391.270) licenses as they are outside of middle and secondary license regulations. It was noted NAC 391.111 is currently pending final adoption under R119-22 and NAC 391.120 is currently pending final adoption under R119-22 and R165-22. Updating licensure fees is not being proposed at this time and have remained the same since April 2018. The current fees are \$180 for an initial license, \$150 to renew a license, and \$50 for an additional endorsement, with a \$50 discount provided to the military. Director Briske cautioned the Commission, who has authority over licensing fees, that the fully fee funded office will lose revenue with these regulation changes. At some point in the future, the Commission will need to

consider raising licensing fees to maintain the Licensure office cost of doing business. Licensees who have a 3-year provisional license with a 3-year PIFE provision currently need to renew after three years generating \$150 in renewal fees. If, and when, this regulation becomes law, the required PIFE course will move from a 3-year provision to a 5 or 6-year renewal requirement. With this change, a conservative average annual revenue loss of \$187,320 is projected. This data is based on the most recent preceding 5 years of Reciprocal License Holders who applied over the last 5 years. $6,244 \times \$150 = \$936,600$. President Rozar voiced her concern over the projected revenue loss for the Licensure Office. President Rozar stated her additional concern due to complaints from current employees and those seeking licensure about the current amount of time it takes to obtain a license, which is not always the State's fault. President Rozar asked if there were any questions or discussions pertaining to this issue. Commissioner Morgan thanked Director Briske for clarification of NAC 391.045 and explained the need for more special education teachers and how this facilitates teachers to obtain these licenses and reiterated the importance of ensuring proper funding for the Licensure Office. There was no further discussion from the Commission; therefore, President Rozar moved this agenda item for a future public workshop.

8. **NAC 391.XXX; NAC 391.340; NAC 391.343; NAC 391.360; NAC 391.363; NAC 391.367; 391.378; AND 391.390 – INTERIM ROUTE TO CERTIFICATION SPECIAL EDUCATION ENDORSEMENT: QUALIFICATIONS; AUTHORIZED EMPLOYMENT; TERM OF VALIDITY; AUTOMATIC INVALIDITY; REINSTATEMENT; REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY FOR AN INITIAL STANDARD ENDORSEMENT. (*Information/Discussion*)**

Director Briske defined the intent of this regulation as an Interim Route to Certification (IRC) pathway to obtain a special education license endorsement for already licensed Educators and to remove the current inadequate pathways in several special education endorsement regulations that currently do not meet requirements. Much of the same language was lifted from the Alternative Route to Licensure (ARL) regulation to ensure candidates for this endorsement meet the same requirements to earn the desired endorsement. Director Briske, based on Public Comment from Washoe County School District, asked the Commission to consider updating Section 1(a) to read: "The license holder will complete coursework requirements through a regionally accredited institution able to confer a bachelor's or more advanced degree". Clarification was given that most of this NAC was lifted from the ARL regulation due to its similarities and describes how many times teachers can change providers and areas. This regulation would also remove each section in the special education regulations that does not clearly identify requirements for licensure. President Rozar asked if there were any questions or discussions pertaining to NAC 391.XXX. Commissioner Belknap voiced his appreciation and is in support of NAC 391.XXX due to the need for more special education teachers in Nevada. There were no further questions or discussions from the Commission. President Rozar moved this item to a future public workshop agenda.

9. **NAC 391.171 – CONDITIONAL ENDORSEMENT AS A PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATOR OF A SCHOOL: QUALIFICATIONS; AUTHORIZED EMPLOYMENT; TERM OF VALIDITY; AUTOMATIC INVALIDITY; REIMSTATEMENT; REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY FOR UNCONDITIONAL ENDORSEMENT; AND NAC 391.XXX – INTERIM ENDORSMENT AS A PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATOR OF A PROGRAM: QUALIFICATIONS; AUTHORIZED EMPLOYMENT; TERM OF VALIDITY; AUTOMATIC INVALIDITY;**

**REINSTATEMENT; REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY FOR INITIAL STANDARD
ENDORSEMENT. (*Information/Discussion*)**

Director Briske explained the intent of these regulations is to eliminate the Alternative Route to Licensure pathway for school and program administrators and to create interim route to certification (IRC) endorsements for an administrator of a school and an administrator of a program because these individuals are already licensed Educators. In 391.171, there is conforming language removing references to an ARL program and replacing those references with IRC language. The employment opportunities for a professional administrator of a school or professional administrator of a program IRC endorsement holder are clearly limited to charter schools, private schools, and to districts other than Carson City, Clark and Washoe County school districts. These employment restrictions in section 1(a) were strengthened and moved to section 2(a). This should address the employment concerns Commissioners had over approving Southern Utah University's ARL program for administrators. Additional ARL language was mirrored regarding reinstatement of an IRC endorsement limiting the time frame, provider options, and number of reinstatement times to once and requiring successful evaluation ratings to convert to a standard license. The program administrator and school administrator were separated for clarity for this meeting, but the Legislative Counsel Bureau may put them back together. President Rozar asked if there were questions or discussions from the Commission regarding the draft language. Commissioner Girdner asked how this will affect people currently going the ARL route as administrators. Director Briske responded that there is currently only one provider, Southern Utah University, and they have not accepted anyone in their program yet. Discussions are being conducted with the University. Commissioner Belknap responded that he believes there should not be an ARL for administrators due to no shortage and vacancies being filled quickly. No further discussions were conducted. President Rozar added this item to a future public workshop agenda.

**10. NAC 391.363 – QUALIFICATIONS FOR TEACHING PUPILS WHO HAVE DISABILITIES
AND WHO ARE UNDER 8 YEARS OF AGE IN A PROGRAM OF EARLY CHILDHOOD
SPECIAL EDUCATION; ENDORSEMENT TO TEACH PUPILS IN SUCH PROGRAM.
(*Information/Discussion*)**

Director Briske explained the intent of this regulation is to correct a loophole allowing a person to obtain a license for early childhood developmental delay without a minimum bachelor's degree and only 18 semester credits of coursework and to ensure coursework rigor for this endorsement. This, as with many endorsements, have a few pathways to obtain the endorsement and be able to teach this population of students.

Section 1(a) refers to holding the endorsement.

Section 1(b) is the IRC option which will be removed in the IRC regulation.

Section 2(a) is not necessary because the program is described below.

Section 2(b) is reciprocity.

Section 2(c) is a degree holder with student teaching.

Section 2(d) is not necessary as the program requirements are described in what was Section 3 now 2(d).

After sending this draft out to education partners, the feedback received was welcome to close the loophole and to ensure program rigor. The coursework requirements were raised from 18-27 semester hours and a few coursework topics were updated to better prepare future educators for these students. Section 5 is dated and not needed anymore, however, LCB may disagree and add it back. President Rozar asked the Commission if there were any questions or discussions regarding NAC 391.363. Vice President Davis agreed with correcting this loophole and stated that potential teaching candidates should have a bachelor's degree or higher. Early childhood education is the foundation of education and experts with the knowledge and background of developmental delays, special education, and early childhood are needed to begin that foundation of learning. No further questions or discussions were provided, and President Rozar moved this item to a future agenda to conduct a public workshop.

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

There were no future agenda items.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT #2

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

13. ADJOURNMENT

President Rozar adjourned the meeting at 9:42 A.M.

APPENDIX A: STATEMENT GIVEN DURING PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Debbie Walter, Human Resource Supervisor, Substitute Services & Licensing, Washoe County School District provided a public written comment regarding agenda Item #8, NAC 391.XXX.
(A summary of the statement is available in Appendix A1)

ITEM A1: DEBBIE WALTER

Summary of Public Comment:

Provided written Public Comment regarding NAC 391.XXX, Interim Route to Certification Special Education Endorsement

Good afternoon, Washoe County School District has concern with the requirement for issuance of an IRC license listed in section 1(a) of the proposed regulation: "Has been accepted for enrollment by a qualified provider that is a regionally accredited institution able to confer a bachelor's or more advanced degree." Our Autism programs are our hardest to fill positions. We have been able to fill more of these openings because of the IRC program. Many of these teachers are enrolling in the IRC program to add an Autism license to their existing Generalist license. This requires completion of just 12 additional college credits. We feel the requirement listed in section 1(a) will adversely affect our ability to staff our hardest to fill positions as the IRC program will have a barrier to entry since teachers will need to enroll in a college/university prior to applying for the IRC license. If the intent is to ensure the coursework is completed through a regionally accredited institution maybe the regulation could read something along the lines of: "Coursework to meet these requirements must be completed through a regionally accredited institution prior to the expiration date of the IRC license". Thank you.