

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION
MAY 20, 2026
9:00 AM**

Office	Address	City	Meeting
Department of Education	2080 E. Flamingo Rd.	Las Vegas	Suite 114
Department of Education	700 E. Fifth St.	Carson City	Board Room
Department of Education	YouTube Live Stream w/captions	n/a	Link

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION MEETING

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

Commissioner Toby Babina
Vice President Shartriya Collier
Commissioner Maria DeWeerd
President Amy Rozar
Commissioner Teresa Schultz

In Carson City:

Commissioner Michele Haugen
Commissioner Shanon Taylor

Virtually:

Commissioner Hope Blinco
Commissioner Jamie Hawkins

COMMISSION MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Commissioner Kenny Belknap
Commissioner Rozane Deighan
Commissioner Christine Hollowood
Commissioner Derild Parsons

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

Jeff Briske, Commission Secretary and Director of Educator Development, Licensure and Family Engagement (EDLiFE)
Geri Mendiola, Administrative Assistant III, EDLiFE

In Carson City:

Jackie Nygaard, Education Programs Professional, EDLiFE
Emily Richardson, Administrative Assistant II, EDLiFE

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT:

Senior Deputy Attorney General Greg Cloward

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE

In Las Vegas:

Jo. Anna Grant, Human Resources, Clark County School District

Bernell Peltier-Glaze, Nevada State University

Felix Simico, Nevada State University

Carson City:

Mary Pierczynski, Nevada Association of School Superintendents

PRESENTERS

Jacki Nygaard, Education Programs Professional, EDLiFE

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

President Rozar called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. Roll call attendance was taken as reflected above and a quorum was established. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice President Collier.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

- Jo. Anna Grant, Clark County School District, provided public comment in Las Vegas regarding agenda item #7, Regulation 071-25, License or endorsement as a professional administrator of a school. *(A summary of the statement is available in Appendix A).*
- Jo. Anna Grant, Clark County School District, provided public comment in Las Vegas regarding agenda item #10, Regulation 043-26, Qualifications for license to teach pupils in a program of early childhood education. *(A summary of the statement is available in Appendix A).*
- Jo. Anna Grant, Clark County School District, provided public comment in Las Vegas regarding agenda item #11, Regulation 044-26, Early Childhood Autism Endorsement. *(A summary of the statement is available in Appendix A).*

There were no public comments in Carson City or via email.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Rozar recognized Commissioner Derild Parsons for his service and congratulated him on his retirement. The Commission additionally recognized Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month, Speech-Language-Hearing Month, Mental Health Awareness Month, National Physical Education and Sport Week, State Employee Appreciation Week, and National Teacher Appreciation Week.

4. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Director of Educator Development, Licensure, Family Engagement and Secretary to the Commission, Jeff Briske updated the Commission that working groups are currently drafting regulations for social

workers, school counselors, school nurses and Assembly Bill 49 which would allow for hiring teachers pending licensure. These regulations are expected to be reviewed and presented to the Commission in the fall.

5. APPROVAL OF APRIL 15, 2026, MINUTES (*Information/Discussion/For possible action*)

President Rozar asked the Commission if there are any discussions regarding the April 15, 2026, meeting minutes. No discussion was made regarding the April 15, 2026, minutes. President Rozar entertained a motion to approve the April 15th meeting minutes.

Motion: Commissioner Schultz moved to approve the April 15, 2026, meeting minutes. Vice President Collier seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously and the April 15th meeting minutes were approved.

6. PUBLIC HEARING R069-25 TO SOLICIT COMMENTS ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO NAC CHAPTER 391.XXX – EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR ART, MUSIC, PHYSICAL EDUCATION, AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH, NAC 391.090 – AUTHORITY CONFERRED BY ELEMENTARY LICENSE, NAC 391.111 – LICENSE TO TEACH MIDDLE SCHOOL OR JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION: QUALIFICATIONS; REQUIREMENTS AND RECOGNIZED SUBJECTS FOR ENDORSEMENT; EXCEPTION, NAC 391.215 – ENDORSEMENT TO TEACH ART, NAC 391.270 – ENDORSEMENT TO TEACH MUSIC, NAC 391.280 – ENDORSEMENT TO TEACH PHYSICAL EDUCATION, NAC 391.281 – ENDORSEMENT TO TEACH PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH, AND NAC 391.096 – QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL PHYSICAL EDUCATION LICENSE; AUTHORIZED EMPLOYMENT. (*Information/Discussion/Possible action*).

President Rozar announced Public Hearing for R069-25 at 9:15 a.m. The Commission considered a regulation relating to education; revising provisions governing the qualifications of teachers employed at certain schools to teach art, music, physical education or physical education and health; revising requirements for obtaining certain endorsements; and providing other matters properly relating thereto. Regulation 069-25 would comply with SB400 (2025) requiring persons to hold an art, music, physical education, and physical education and health endorsement to be employed in such assignments in a district with 200,000 or more pupils enrolled or in a school with 500 or more pupils enrolled. The Commission may adopt or not adopt the regulation.

President Rozar opened the floor for questions and/or discussion. There were no questions nor discussions from the Commission therefore President Rozar entertained a motion to adopt regulation 069-25.

Motion: Commissioner Schultz moved to adopt R069-25. Commissioner DeWeerd seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

7. PUBLIC HEARING R071-25 TO SOLICIT COMMENTS ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO NAC CHAPTER 391.XXX – ENDORSEMENTS, NAC 391.170 – LICENSE OR ENDORSEMENT AS A PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATOR OF A SCHOOL; ENDORSEMENT AS A PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATOR OF A PROGRAM, AND NAC

391.171 – CONDITIONAL ENDORSEMENT AS A PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATOR OF A SCHOOL; QUALIFICATIONS; AUTHORIZED EMPLOYMENT; TERM OF VALIDITY; AUTOMATIC INVALIDITY; REINSTATEMENT; REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY FOR UNCONDITIONAL ENDORSEMENT. (*Information/Discussion/For possible action*).

President Rozar announced Public Hearing for R071-25 at 9:17 a.m. The Commission heard a regulation relating to educational personnel; authorizing the Superintendent of Public Instruction to issue and interim endorsement as a professional administrator of a program to certain persons; revising provisions governing the issuance of a license or endorsement as a professional administrator of a school, an endorsement as a professional administrator of a program and an interim endorsement as a professional administrator of a school; and providing other matters properly relating thereto. The endorsement will create an Interim Route to Certification for school and program administrators. The Commission may adopt or not adopt the regulation.

President Rozar asked the Commission if there were any questions or discussion. Commissioner Schultz asked for clarification regarding specific programs discussed in R071-25. Director Briske explained that previously the Commission dissolved the Alternative Route to Licensure (ARL) pathway for school and program administrators such as coordinators and directors overseeing counseling, nursing, occupational therapy, and physical therapy. Because these individuals were already licensed teachers, the Department determined that the Interim Route to Certification (IRC) pathway was a more appropriate fit. Similar to the pathway for general education teachers who wish to transition to special education, this regulation would allow already licensed teachers to transition into administration. If an employer hired someone with an IRC endorsement for an administrative role, the individual can legally begin working as an administrator while simultaneously completing their required coursework.

Commissioner Schultz asked if an individual would like to be a program administrator in social work, would the person need background of working in social work? Director Briske confirmed that the qualifications for a school administrator license would be five years of classroom teaching and the qualification for a program administrator would be required to hold that license in the area that they would like to be a program administrator and also have five years of experience within that specific program.

President Rozar asked the Commission if there were any further questions or discussions. There were none and President Rozar entertained a motion to adopt R071-25.

Motion: Commissioner Schultz moved to adopt R071-25. Vice President Collier seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- 8. PUBLIC HEARING R013-26 TO SOLICIT COMMENTS ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO NAC CHAPTER 391.XXX – COURSE OF INSTRUCTION, NAC 391.065 – RENEWAL OF LICENSE: EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS; EXCEPTIONS, NAC 391.070 – RENEWAL OF LICENSE: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS; FEE; DELAY OF EXPIRATION DATE BY SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, AND NAC 391.095 – QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELEMENTARY LICENSE. (*Information/Discussion/For possible action*).**

President Rozar pulled R013-26 from the agenda for further language refinement with Legislative Council Bureau (LCB).

9. PUBLIC HEARING R039-26 TO SOLICIT COMMENTS ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO NAC CHAPTER 391.XXX – ENDORSEMENT IN TRAUMA-INFORMED INSTRUCTION. (*Information/Discussion/For possible action*).

President Rozar announced Public Hearing for R039-26 at 9:20 a.m. The Commission considered a regulation relating to educational personnel; establishing and prescribing the qualifications for an endorsement in trauma-informed instruction; and providing other matters properly relating thereto. This regulation will create an endorsement in trauma-informed instruction. The Commission may adopt or not adopt the regulation.

President Rozar asked the Commission if there were any questions or discussion regarding this agenda item. There were no questions or discussions from the Commission; President Rozar entertained a motion to adopt regulation 039-26.

Motion: President Rozar moved to adopt R039-26. Vice President Collier seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

10. PUBLIC HEARING R043-26 TO SOLICIT COMMENTS ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO NAC CHAPTER 391.089 – QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSE TO TEACH PUPILS IN A PROGRAM OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION. (*Information/Discussion/For possible action*).

President Rozar announced Public Hearing R043-26 at 9:21 a.m. The Commission considered a regulation relating to educational personnel; revising requirements for obtaining a license to teach pupils in a program of early childhood education; and providing other matters properly relating thereto. The regulation will update the pathway for elementary license holders to obtain an early childhood endorsement by changing the practicum requirement to a 1 semester course. The Commission may adopt or not adopt this regulation.

President Rozar asked the Commission if there were any questions or discussion on this agenda item. Commissioner Babina asked a question regarding the expected effective date for early childhood education course regulations. Director Briske described if the regulation is adopted by the Commission, the regulatory packets will be generated and forwarded to LCB. The deadline for the upcoming June 30th LCB meeting has already passed. Because the LCB meeting schedule varies, the regulation would most likely be considered at an August meeting. Vice President Collier asked for the history of why this regulation is being revised. Director Briske explained that the required twelve credits of coursework plus a practicum which was not defined and left up to preparation programs. The practicum was waived only if the teacher had prior experience working with children age six and younger. This strict condition effectively limited the applicant pool strictly to kindergarten teachers. The undefined practicum will be converted into a structured one credit course, changing the total pathway from twelve credits to thirteen credits. Defining the practicum as a specific one-semester course allows the Department to issue a provisional license. Under existing regulations, a provisional license can be granted if an applicant is short by up to six credits. A teacher can now take three courses, get hired into an early childhood

assignment, and complete their final course and one credit practicum while on the job using their current classroom location. The revision expands the applicant pool from just kindergarten teachers to all elementary teachers. The regulation aims to address the growing number of early childhood education seats and was developed in concept with the Regional Professional Development Programs (RPDP) and Southern Utah University.

President Rozar asked the Commission if there was any further discussion, there was none and President Rozar entertained a motion to adopt R043-26.

Motion: Commissioner DeWeerd moved to adopt R043-26. Commissioner Schultz seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

11. PUBLIC HEARING R044-26 TO SOLICIT COMMENTS ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO NAC CHAPTER 391.XXX – EARLY CHILDHOOD AUTISM ENDORSEMENT, AND NAC 391.378 – QUALIFICATIONS FOR TEACHING PUPILS WHO HAVE AUTISM; ENDORSEMENT TO TEACH SUCH PUPILS. (*Information/Discussion/For possible action*).

President Rozar announced Public Hearing R044-26 at 9:25 a.m. The Commission considered a regulation relating to educational personnel; providing for the issuance of an endorsement to teach certain pupils with autism spectrum disorder in a program of early childhood education; and providing other matters properly relating thereto. The regulation will create an early childhood autism endorsement and create a pathway for early childhood special education license holders to obtain the endorsement. The Commission may adopt or not adopt this regulation.

President Rozar asked the Commission if there were any questions or further discussion on this agenda item. Commissioner Babina asked for clarification if this specific early childhood pathway applies to K-12 autism teachers. Director Briske confirmed that a teacher who already holds an age three to twenty-one autism endorsement does not need to pursue this new early childhood autism endorsement pathway. Their existing credential already authorizes them to teach in an early childhood special education autism assignment. There were no further questions or discussion; President Rozar entertained a motion to adopt R044-26.

Motion: Commissioner Schultz moved to adopt R044-26. President Rozar seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

12. SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS (STEM) ENDORSEMENT PROGRAM. (*Information/Discussion/For possible action*).

The Commission considered a proposed STEM endorsement program from the University of Nevada, Reno. The Commission may approve or not approve this program.

Dr. Jackie Nygaard presented the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) proposal for a STEM endorsement program. Dr. Jackie Nygaard highlighted that the program is designed specifically for licensed K-8 in-service teachers. The program develops deep knowledge in math and science to help teachers deliver high-quality integrated STEM instruction. The 36 credit master's degree goes well above and beyond the state's 12-credit requirement for a STEM endorsement. Specifically, the program provides 21 credits in STEM content and pedagogy, where only 6 are required, 6 credits in

instructional materials and assessments, where only 3 are required, and 6 credits in integrated STEM instruction, where only 3 are required. The curriculum is fully aligned with NAC 391, the NEPF, and INTASC standards. UNR maintains regional accreditation through the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities and earned national AAQEP accreditation for its educator preparation programs in 2025. The application has successfully passed the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) review process, including licensure, analysts, and subject matter experts and members of the Commission.

President Rozar thanked Dr. Jackie Nygaard and asked the Commission if there were any questions or discussions regarding the proposed STEM endorsement program at UNR. There were no questions or discussion from the Commission, therefore President Rozar entertained a motion to approve the STEM endorsement program at University of Nevada, Reno.

Motion: Vice President Collier moved to approve the STEM Endorsement Program at UNR. Commissioner Schultz seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

13. ALTERNATIVE ROUTE TO LICENSURE (ARL) PROGRAMS. (*Information, Discussion/For possible action*).

The Commission considered new ARL programs from the Nevada State University (NSU) in the areas of Early Childhood, Elementary, Special Education, and Secondary. The Commission may approve or not approve these programs.

Dr. Jackie Nygaard presented the NSU proposal for new ARL educator preparation program. Dr. Jackie Nygaard highlighted that the combined review committee unanimously recommended the program for approval. NSU proposed ARL pathways for the following licenses and endorsement programs:

- **Early Childhood Education:** Birth to Grade 2
- **Elementary Education (Grades K-8):** All subjects
- **Secondary Education (Grades 7-12):** Math, English, Biological Science, Physical Science, and Social Studies
- **Special Education:** Early Childhood Developmentally Delayed, Generalist, and Autism Spectrum Disorder (Ages 3-21)

Dr. Jackie Nygaard emphasized to ensure the program meets the highest standards for Nevada Educators, the application has undergone a rigorous multi-tiered review process. First, the Department conducted an initial administrative review of the application to ensure foundational compliance. Next, our Licensure Analyst team conducted a thorough technical review, verifying that the regulatory crosswalks matched our state expectations. Following the licensure review, the proposal was evaluated by subject matter experts across the Nevada Department of Education. This included syllabi and pedagogical checks by experts from the Office of Teaching and Learning, the Office of Early Learning and Development, and the Office of Comprehensive Student Services. Finally, the process concluded with comprehensive reviews by three members of the Commission and the Commission Secretary. Dr. Jackie Nygaard concluded by emphasizing that throughout the extensive review process, the leadership and faculty at NSU was exceptionally collaborative and responsive. NSU actively asked questions and made all necessary revisions to swiftly resolve any concerns brought forward by the

review team. Because of the diligent work, it was the unanimous recommendation of the combined review committee to approve the proposed ARL program at NSU.

President Rozar thanks Dr. Jackie Nygaard and asked the Commission if there were any questions or discussions regarding the proposed ARL program at NSU. Vice President Collier thanked the Dean and Associate Dean at NSU for their attendance and thanked the Nevada Department of Education for their thorough review. Vice President Collier expressed NSU has committed time to NSU's ARL program for some time and partnered with Clark County School District (CCSD) and charter schools in Nevada and NSU looks forward to moving forward with a much needed program. President Rozar expressed her gratitude for the collaborative work between NSU and NDE for this accessible path for Nevada educators. President Rozar asked the Commission if there were any further questions or discussions from the Commission, there were none and therefore entertained a motion to approve the ARL programs at NSU.

Motion: President Rozar moved to approve the NSU ARL Programs. Commissioner Schultz seconded the motion. Vice President Collier abstained. Motion carried.

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

- Discussions, Workshops and Public Hearings
- Social Worker, Counselors, Nurse, and Teacher hire without license regulations

15. PUBLIC COMMENT #2

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

16. ADJOURNMENT

President Rozar acknowledged the next Commission on Professional Standards meeting on August 3, 2026, and entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Vice President Collier moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Schultz seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 a. m.

APPENDIX A: STATEMENT GIVEN DURING PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Ms. Jo. Anna Grant, Human Resources, Clark County School District (CCSD) provided public comment on Agenda Item #7. *(A summary of the statement is available in Appendix A1)*
2. Ms. Jo. Anna Grant, Human Resources, CCSD, provided public comment on Agenda Item #10. *(A summary of the statement is available in Appendix A2)*
3. Ms. Jo. Anna Grant, Human Resources, CCSD provided public comment on Agenda Item #11. *(A summary of the statement is available in Appendix A3)*

ITEM A1: JO. ANNA GRANT, HUMAN RESOURCES, CCSD

Summary of Public Comment:

Provided public comment regarding Regulation 071-25, Endorsement to create an Interim Route to Certification (IRC) for school and program administrators.

Madam President and members of the Commission, good morning. My name is Jo. Anna Grant, Assistant Human Resources Officer for the Human Resources Unit with the Clark County School District. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback today.

CCSD supports expanding accessible pathways for qualified educators and specialized personnel to enter school and program leadership roles while ensuring strong mentoring, preparation quality, and implementation flexibility.

As the regulation is considered, we respectfully recommend:

- *Strong mentoring and coaching expectations for interim administrators during the certification period;*
- *Clear quality and accountability standards for approved preparation providers;*
- *Preservation of district discretion regarding hiring, placement, and readiness determinations;*
- *Flexibility in implementation timelines and limited extensions for candidates nearing completion under extenuating circumstances;*
- *Additional clarification regarding evaluation requirements used in lieu of internship coursework; and*
- *Continued support for leadership pipelines in shortage areas such as special education, student services, behavioral health, and early childhood.*

Additionally, districts should retain the authority to determine whether this pathway aligns with or may interfere with existing district preparation programs and leadership development requirements already in place.

CCSD supports innovative pathways into leadership while maintaining high standards for administrator readiness and student support.

ITEM A2: JO.ANNA GRANT, HUMAN RESOURCES, CCSD

Summary of Public Comment:

Provided public comment regarding Regulation 043-26, Regulation to update the pathway for elementary license holders to obtain an early childhood endorsement by changing the practicum requirement to a 1 semester course.

Madam President and members of the Commission, good morning. My name is Jo. Anna Grant, Assistant Human Resources Officer for the Human Resources Unit with the Clark County School District. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback today.

CCSD appreciates the intent of this amendment to make the Early Childhood Education endorsement more accessible and to help expand the pipeline of qualified educators serving our youngest learners. Increasing accessibility to the endorsement pathway is an important step toward addressing workforce shortages while continuing to support high-quality early learning experiences for students.

As implementation is considered, we encourage maintaining strong practical experience and coaching supports to ensure candidates are adequately prepared for the unique instructional and developmental needs of early childhood students. We also encourage continued exploration of potential funding sources and partnerships that would support educator access to these programs, including tuition assistance, grow-your-own pathways, and district-supported coaching models.

CCSD supports efforts to increase accessibility to the endorsement while balancing flexibility with meaningful preparation and support for educators entering the field.

ITEM A3: JO.ANNA GRANT, HUMAN RESOURCES, CCSD

Summary of Public Comment:

Provided public comment regarding Regulation 044-26, Regulation to create an early childhood autism endorsement and create a pathway for early childhood special education license holders to obtain the endorsement.

Madam President and members of the Commission, good morning. My name is Jo. Anna Grant, Assistant Human Resources Officer for the Human Resources Unit with the Clark County School District. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback today.

CCSD supports the creation of additional pathways to increase qualified autism educators and appreciates the focus on strengthening services for students with specialized needs.

As implementation is considered, we respectfully encourage flexibility in timelines, accessible coursework options, provisional pathways while coursework is being completed, and grandfathering considerations for current employees successfully serving in autism programs. We also encourage continued exploration of funding opportunities and grow-your-own pipelines to support districts in implementing these requirements.

Additionally, it is important that districts retain reasonable flexibility in staffing specialized programs during ongoing workforce shortages to ensure continuity of services for students.

Overall, CCSD supports expanding educator pathways while balancing implementation expectations with current staffing realities and workforce needs.