Nevada Department of Education
Nevada State Board of Education

"At-Risk" Subcommittee Meeting

October 14, 2025
2:30 PM

Office	Address	City	Meeting Room
Department of Education	2080 E. Flamingo Rd.	Las Vegas	Las Vegas Board Room
Department of Education	700 E. Fifth St.	Carson City	Silver Ore Conference
Department of Education	Virtual/Livestream	Virtual	YouTube Link

Summary Minutes of the Board Meeting

Subcommittee Members Present
Angela Orr, Chair
Annette Dawson Owens
Superintendent Andrew Fueling

Subcommittee Members Absent Excused
None

Department Staff Present
Dr. Steve Canavero, Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction
Lisa Ford, Interim Deputy Superintendent for Student Achievement Office
Megan Peterson, Deputy Superintendent for Student Investment Division
Melissa Willis, State Education Fund Manager, Director of the Office of Pupil Centered Funding
Peter Zutz, Administrator, Office of Assessment, Data, and Accountability Management
Gabriel Hill, Education Programs Professional, Office of Assessment, Data, and Accountability Management
Angie Castellanos, Administrative Assistant
Zach Khan, Administrative Assistant

Legal Staff Present
Greg Ott, Chief Deputy Attorney General

Audience in Attendance
None

1. **Call to Order, Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance, and Land Acknowledgement**
   Meeting called to order at 2:31 P.M. by Chair Orr. Quorum was established. Chair Orr provided a land acknowledgement.

2. **Public Comment #1**
   None

3. **Information, Discussion, and for Possible Action on Adjustments to At-Risk Student Identification Metrics** *(Information, Discussion, and for Possible Action)*

   Chair Orr introduced the agenda item concerning possible adjustments to at-risk student identification metrics.

Administrator Peter Zutz introduced Education Programs Professional, Gabriel Hill, who presented updated data and analysis based on the subcommittee's prior direction. The presentation incorporated three years of assessment data (2021–22, 2022–23, and 2023–24) to allow for trend analysis. Mr. Hill explained the filtering methods and updates to how the lowest 20th percentile (quintile) was determined.

Discussion Highlights:
Members engaged in an extensive discussion regarding the definition and application of the lowest quintile, specifically debating whether it referred to 20% of total students statewide or the lowest 20% of test scores. Chair Orr and Member Dawson Owens discussed whether the statute required the use of the lowest quintile of test scores or allowed identification of the lowest performing 20% of students among those already determined to be economically disadvantaged (direct certified). Deputy Attorney General Greg Ott read NRS 387.1211 to clarify that the law defines an "at-risk pupil" as one within the quintile most in need of additional support, thereby allowing discretion in determining the criteria. Chair Orr suggested focusing on students who are direct certified and not at grade level rather than solely those in the bottom quintile of test performance. Administrator Zutz and Mr. Hill confirmed that this approach could be modeled using existing data. Ryan Reeves, representing Academica Nevada and a member of the Commission on School Funding, provided input confirming that the statute allows broad discretion in determining at-risk criteria, provided it is supported by substantial evidence. Members further discussed whether the State should consider all students below proficiency, not only direct certified students, to align more closely with the legislative intent of identifying approximately 20% of students as at-risk. Member Dawson Owens emphasized the importance of making the datasets publicly available to ensure transparency, and Chair Orr noted that the goal of the subcommittee was to align identification with approximately 20% of the statewide student population, consistent with the original funding intent.

Requests and Agreed-Upon Next Steps:

- The Department was directed to provide two additional data analyses:

    1. Remove the direct certification filter and apply the same methodology to the total student population.

    2. Analyze direct certified students who are not proficient on assessments (level 1 or 2 on SBAC or below the 60th percentile on MAP).

Chair Orr requested additional analysis for students performing below the 40th percentile to compare with those below the 60th percentile. She further requested that multiple years of data be included, with at least one year prior to the pandemic, to evaluate stability and volatility trends. Member Dawson Owens asked that the resulting data files be made public and posted with future meeting materials. Chair Orr also requested that Deputy Attorney General Ott review the proposed methodologies and provide any legal feedback prior to the next meeting. Deputy Attorney General Ott confirmed he had no legal concerns with the proposed approaches and noted that the subcommittee was making progress toward a compliant and feasible definition of "at-risk." Administrator Zutz and Mr. Gabriel Hill committed to producing the requested analyses and confirmed that the new data could be completed within the following week.

4. **Public Comment #2**
   None

5. **Future Agenda Items** *(Information and Discussion)*
   The subcommittee identified the following future agenda items:
   - Review of the revised data analyses discussed during this meeting.

- Development of a proposed definition of "at-risk" students for recommendation to the State Board of Education.
- Review of three-year and pre-pandemic trend data to assess year-over-year consistency.
- Possible joint discussion with members of the Commission on School Funding to coordinate understanding of funding implications.
- Review of legal guidance from the Deputy Attorney General prior to finalizing the subcommittee's recommendation.

6. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 3:35 P.M.