

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

COMMISSION ON SCHOOL FUNDING

October 17, 2025

9:00 AM

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

Commission Members Present

Guy Hobbs, Chair
Joyce Woodhouse, Vice-Chair
Punam Mathur
Dr. Nancy Brune
Yolanda King
Ryan Reeves
Dusty Casey
Justin Dayhoff
Mark Mathers
Ray Ritchie
Cassandra Stahlke

Department Staff Present

Megan Peterson, Deputy Superintendent for the Student Investment Division
Melissa Willis, State Education Funding Manager for the Office of Pupil-Centered Funding
Amelia Thibault, Director for the Office of Division Compliance

Legal Staff Present

Greg Ott, Deputy Attorney General

Presenters in Attendance

Amanda Brown, Vice President, APA
Dr. Sean Tanner, Senior Research Associate, WestEd

1. Call to Order, Roll Call

The Nevada Commission on School Funding (CSF) convened its hybrid meeting on October 17, 2025, at 9:02 AM. Chair Guy Hobbs welcomed the Nevada Department of Education and all attendees, acknowledging the unique nature of meeting from multiple locations.

The meeting began with a roll call, confirming a quorum, and a special welcome for new member Yolanda King. Member King, the former County Manager and CFO for Clark County, briefly shared her background, noting her current role as managing principal for King Strategies and compliance monitor for the Clark County School District (CCSD). Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Greg Ott was also welcomed to the meeting.

2. Public Comment #1

No comments were submitted in Carson City, Las Vegas, in writing, or by callers.

3. Consent Agenda (For Possible Action)

The Commission addressed the consent agenda, which included the September 19, 2025 minutes and the proposed meeting schedule through December 2026. Member Woodhouse moved to approve the consent agenda items, which was seconded by Member Mathur, and passed unanimously.

4. Open Meeting Law Review (*Information and Discussion*)

DAG Ott provided an overview on the Open Meeting Law (OML), emphasizing that its purpose is to ensure public access and input of the collective decision-making and deliberation of the public body. He clarified that while individual members can gather information (e.g., talk to stakeholders, constituents), the Commission's working groups, which are not subcommittees, must limit their activities to information gathering and presenting data to the full body. Deliberation and making formal recommendations must occur before the full Commission in a properly agendized public meeting. DAG Ott also cautioned about the risk of serial communication (like texts or emails) between members that could inadvertently constitute a quorum (six members for this Commission), thus violating the OML.

5. Nevada Department of Education update (*Information and Discussion*)

Megan Peterson from the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) provided an update, noting the department's work on establishing the new CSF workgroups and collaborating with the State Board of Education's (SBE) at-risk subcommittee. The subcommittee is reviewing alternative metrics for identifying at-risk students, such as direct certification, homelessness, foster status, and performance quintiles, as a proxy to the current GRAD Score. These new metrics currently identify fewer students than the GRAD Score. NDE is also working on amending contracts, evaluating the competency-based education contract, and compiling data on enrollment trends and weighted categories to support the new workgroups. The Commission has the authority to make its own recommendations regarding at-risk identification, which may not completely align with the State Board of Education's recommendations.

6. Addendum of the Performance Summary for the Review of Academic Progress Made by Pupils (*Information and Discussion*)

Dr. Sean Tanner of WestEd and Dr. Amanda Brown of APA then presented an addendum to the legislative performance report, which now included updated financial data. Amanda Brown highlighted several financial trends from FY 2019 to FY 2024, noting a statewide 3% decline in student enrollment, with significant variability across local education agencies (LEAs). Total statewide revenues increased by about 65% over this period, driven by a reclassification of local revenues to state revenues (the "local sweep") and a temporary influx of federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. Spending patterns remained consistent, with the largest portion of expenditure (about 70%) dedicated to salaries and benefits for staff, primarily instructional staff.

Dr. Tanner then presented on student performance metrics, emphasizing that the data presented were simple snapshots in time—comparing performance across two different cohorts—and not longitudinal studies, which is especially important when interpreting the at-risk student data due to high student turnover in that category.

Key findings included:

- K–3 literacy: A small one-percentage-point increase statewide, but a two-percentage-point *decline* for at-risk students (identified by Grad Score).
- Advanced Placement (AP) Participation: A 2% decline statewide, but an increase in AP completion rates.

- Career and Technical Education (CTE) Participation: A 3% decline statewide, but a two-percentage-point increase for at-risk students.
- At-Risk Proficiency: Declines in proficiency rates were noted in Grades 3–8 math and English Language Arts (ELA), while high school metrics showed some improvement.
- Graduation Rate: The at-risk graduation rate appeared to dramatically increase from 24% to 63%, which Dr. Tanner attributed to a doubling of students being identified as at-risk in the graduating cohort, rather than a single direct cause.

7. Systems Strategy Return on Investment (*Information and Discussion*)

Amelia Thibault of NDE provided a presentation on the Return on Investment (ROI) Analysis and plans for multi-year implementation pilots, a new requirement under Senate Bill (SB) 460 (83rd Legislative Session). She outlined a strategy to leverage and align existing data collection requirements (such as federal and state expenditure reports) and efforts to standardize data reporting using the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) handbook and Nevada Chart of Accounts. The goal is to develop a single, streamlined annual report for the Commission that links resource allocation to student outcomes. NDE will look to the Commission's ROI working group for feedback on file specifications and data collection methods, with a target of a pilot collection in the spring of 2026.

8. Finalize Work Groups (*Information, Discussion, and Possible Action*)

The Commission proceeded to finalize its new work groups and designated leads for each area, including "At-Risk Student Identification," "Weighted Categories," and "Return on Investment". After brief discussion and modifications, Member Mathur moved to adopt the work groups and their leads, and the motion was seconded by Member Reeves and carried. It was agreed that the leads would develop an initial work plan and that NDE staff would provide leads with resource information.

9. Public Comment #2

No comments were submitted in Carson City, Las Vegas, in writing, or by callers.

10. Future Agenda Items (*Information and Discussion*)

Vice Chair Woodhouse suggested that to satisfy the statutory requirement for a joint meeting with the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education (CIEE) in 2025, the chairs and staff of both commissions should have a short, interim report on their organizational structure and workgroups at a future meeting, deferring a full group meeting until 2026. Deputy Attorney General Odd agreed that this flexible approach was appropriate.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:33 AM.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 14th at 9:00 AM