

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
COMMISSION ON INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION
Next Generation Career Pathways Subcommittee
January 29, 2026
2:00 – 3:30 PM

Office	Address	Meeting Room
Virtual	Zoom Videoconference Link	Dial-In: +13017158592 Meeting ID: 872 4666 9356 Passcode: 190351

SUMMARY MINUTES

1. Call to Order, Roll Call

Chair Mariluz Garcia called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

Roll call was conducted by Nathan Driskell.

Members Present:

Chair Mariluz Garcia

Commissioner Teresa Dastrup

Commissioner Peter Zierhut

Commissioner Maite Salazar (joined during discussion)

Commissioner McNair (joined after roll call)

Zhan Okuda-Lim

Members Absent (Excused):

Chair Woodhouse

Senator Buck

Commissioner Garcia (noted absent/excused in roll)

Commissioner McNair (initially absent, later joined)

Commissioner Frantz

A quorum was established.

2. Public Comment #1

No members of the public offered comments during either designated period.

3. Introduction of Agenda, Goals, and Process (*Information and Discussion*)

Mr. Driskell provided an overview of the meeting purpose and objectives. He thanked members for their flexibility due to scheduling constraints that prevented a full Commission meeting and acknowledged agency partners and public participants for their continued engagement.

He stated that the subcommittee would:

- Reaffirm its “promise and offer” language.

- Preview and pressure-test stimulus materials under development for the February full Commission meeting.
- Identify gaps in analysis.
- Plan outreach and interviews to validate findings.
- Begin shared action planning around sequencing, roles, and ownership.

Mr. Driskell emphasized that the Commission’s work supports its statutory responsibilities under SB460, including submission of an annual report with findings and recommendations to the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Education by June 30.

He further outlined goals for 2025–2026, including:

- Making implementation of the career pathways roadmap accessible statewide.
- Maintaining a “live” roadmap responsive to evolving workforce conditions.
- Preparing clear guidance and recommendations for stakeholders across Nevada.

No questions were raised. Agenda Item 3 was closed.

4. Review of Subcommittee Promise and 2026 “Offer” (*Information, Discussion, and Possible Action*)

Mr. Driskell presented the previously adopted “promise” language regarding next-generation career pathways and invited feedback.

Commissioner Dastrup expressed appreciation for the inclusion of the phrase “wherever they live,” noting the importance of equitable access across Nevada’s rural and urban communities. Chair Garcia and Commissioner Salazar affirmed the language, particularly its emphasis on early and frequent exposure to career pathways.

Discussion clarified that digital and hybrid infrastructure would support accessibility and that prior Commission recommendations included investment in digital systems.

Mr. Driskell then reviewed the three major policy buckets from the Commission’s prior report:

1. Establishing a working group to coordinate workforce readiness programs.
2. Developing career exploration materials for grades 1–5.
3. Exploring employer incentives and infrastructure needs, particularly in light of SB403 not passing.

He also highlighted the importance of employer incentives, digital infrastructure, and engagement with entities that monitor labor market trends.

The subcommittee discussed three priority system moves for 2026:

- Expanding advising capacity.
- Identifying and reducing employer friction.
- Surfacing and promoting operator wins.

Chair Garcia expressed particular interest in the analysis of federal and state constraints affecting employer participation, noting that prior discussions had referenced these barriers without comprehensive cataloging.

Agenda Item 4 was closed.

5. Preview of Stimulus Materials Under Development for the February 2026 Full Commission Meeting (Information and Discussion)

The February full Commission meeting was confirmed for February 26–27, 2026.

A. Advising Capacity Scan

Sophia Roy presented an outline of the advising capacity scan, including:

- Staffing models (school counselors, WBL coordinators, CTE staff).
- Tools and technologies (including virtual and augmented reality).
- Operating routines.
- Internship marketplaces.
- Pain points and opportunity gaps.

Members provided the following feedback:

- Clarify terminology (WBL, AR, internship marketplaces).
- Differentiate between elementary, middle, and secondary approaches.
- Elevate “operating routines” earlier in the framework to establish context.
- Include roles of classroom teachers and informal influencers.
- Consider progression models of student engagement across grade bands.

Potential sources and contacts suggested included:

- State workforce and labor agencies.
- District CTE leadership, including Clark County School District representatives.
- Higher education and longitudinal data system partners.
- Local chamber and employer partners.
- Rural district representatives (e.g., Elko County School District).
- Members offered to facilitate introductions to key stakeholders.

B. Employer Friction Analysis

Ms. Roy presented categories of employer friction, including:

- Liability and risk.
- Supervision and training burdens.
- Transportation and scheduling.
- Incentives and return on investment.
- Regulatory and hazardous occupation constraints.
- Youth labor rule confusion.

Commissioners emphasized the importance of:

- Highlighting “what’s working” alongside barriers.
- Distinguishing low-lift versus higher-lift system changes.
- Examining background check requirements unique to public education.
- Engaging HR professionals and employer associations.
- Considering transportation barriers, including driving age restrictions and rural access differences.

The subcommittee discussed examples of current practice, including internship coordination models at schools such as Cristo Rey in North Las Vegas, and suggested inviting representatives to the February meeting.

Members proposed outreach strategies including:

- Chamber-based surveys.
- Targeted employer surveys.
- Social media outreach.
- Engagement with manufacturing and industry advisory groups.

Agenda Item 5 was closed.

6. Shared Learning: A Shared Action-Planning and Priority-Sorting Lens for Moving from Ideas to System Change (*Information and Discussion*)

7. Outreach Planning for Interviews and Focus Groups (*Information, Discussion, and Possible Action*)

Agenda Items 6 and 7 were combined.

Ms. Roy introduced a shared strategic planning framework centered on:

- Commission roles: Do, Enable, Recommend, Monitor.
- Time horizons: Now, Next, Later.

She explained that February discussions would further explore non-legislative tools (clarify, connect, convene, codify, catalyze, communicate) and legislative tools (policy levers framed as promise, prohibit, prescribe, promote).

Members were advised to block two to three hours during the week of the February meeting to review stimulus materials in advance.

Breakout discussions were initiated to:

- Clarify distinctions between Commission roles.
- Identify potential role alignment for advising capacity and employer friction actions.

Discussion centered on preventing role drift, aligning ownership, and ensuring clear boundaries between Commission authority and stakeholder implementation.

8. Look Ahead: February 2026 Session and Next Steps (*Information and Discussion*)

The subcommittee confirmed the following key next steps to prepare for the February 26–27, 2026 Full Commission meeting:

- Sophia will refine the advising capacity and employer friction stimulus materials, incorporate member feedback, and send drafts about one week before the February meeting.
- Sophia will share a running list of target contacts for review and connection support.
- Maite will facilitate introductions to Department of Business & Industry (Dieter) and Latin Chamber contacts and explore distributing a short employer survey.
- Zhan will connect Sophia with Gia Moore (CCSD).

- Peter will facilitate contact with Tristan Hayes (CCSD CTE) and share manufacturing advisory group information.
- Mariluz will reach out to Cristo Rey school to invite a presentation on their internship/transportation model.

All Commissioners will:

- Block 2–3 hours the week prior to the February meeting to review materials.
- Complete the Doodle poll for upcoming meeting dates.
- Share any additional relevant contacts or data sources.

These steps are intended to strengthen analysis, expand stakeholder input, and ensure the February meeting results in clear, actionable direction.

9. Public Comment #2

No members of the public offered comments during either designated period.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m.