

Nevada Commission on School Funding

I. Our Purpose

The Nevada Commission on School Funding was established by Senate Bill 543 (2019) to guide the state's transition to a new K-12 education funding formula called the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan. While the commission's work is multifaceted, its primary mission, as outlined in its legislative mandates and reports, can be summarized by these key objectives:

- **Guidance and Implementation:** To provide guidance to school districts and the Nevada Department of Education on updates, research, and data surrounding the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan.
- **Optimal Funding:** To identify and recommend a strategy to achieve an optimal level of funding for public schools in Nevada, with a specific charge to fully fund the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan within ten years.
- **Review and Recommendations:** To review state laws and regulations related to education and make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of public education, including revisions to the funding plan's key components, such as the base per-pupil funding amount and weighted funding for specific student groups.
- **Accountability and Transparency:** To develop a system of reporting and accountability that provides a reliable tool for measuring performance and ensuring transparency in education spending and outcomes.

In essence, the commission's primary goal is to ensure that Nevada's public schools are adequately and equitably funded to provide quality education for all students.

II. Rules of Engagement for Leaders

- The purpose of these rules of engagement is to affirm our collective commitment to making Commission meetings efficient, courteous, and productive. Productive means making measurable progress on agenda items, leading to clear decisions or actionable recommendations within the allotted time.
- We accept these ground rules as our shared commitment to completing the vital work that is critical to the educational future of ALL Nevada children. Our adherence to these principles will ensure that the [Commission/Board/Council] effectively fulfills its responsibilities as defined by its enabling statutes, ordinances, or founding documents.
- These are our rules; we can and will change them together if we feel there is a better way to accomplish our common goals as outlined in our enabling legislation. This commitment to flexibility ensures our rules remain relevant and effective in guiding our work.
- Everyone is responsible for upholding these rules of engagement. If you believe we have strayed from these principles, please speak directly to the Chair or Vice Chair, fostering a culture of mutual accountability and continuous improvement, where constructive feedback is welcomed and acted upon to enhance our collective effectiveness. The Chair and Vice Chair commit to receiving this feedback constructively and without defensiveness, ensuring that raising a concern is a positive and welcomed action.

III. HONOR OUR TIME

- **Come to meetings prepared with a positive attitude and an open and curious mind.** This includes reviewing all pre-circulated materials at least [X days/hours] prior to the meeting, understanding agenda items, and being ready to engage constructively and make informed contributions. Preparation ensures discussions are well-informed and can progress efficiently.
- **Respect the group's time and keep comments brief and to the point.** While robust discussion is encouraged, unnecessary repetition or lengthy anecdotal tangents detract from productivity. Members should strive to articulate their points concisely, ideally within [X minutes], allowing ample time for all voices to be heard. Comments should be objective and focused on the topic at hand.
- **Avoid re-debating topics that have been discussed fully and decisions have been made.** Once a decision has been reached through due process, the focus should shift to implementation and moving forward. If new, relevant information or a significant change in circumstances arises that warrants reconsideration, follow established Commission procedures for bringing it back to the agenda for a structured review, rather than revisiting settled matters spontaneously. This might involve submitting a formal request to the Chair for an item to be placed on a future agenda for discussion. This prevents confusion and ensures a structured approach to revisiting settled matters.

IV. RESPECT THE WORK

- **Be guided by the intent, purpose, and goals outlined** in our enabling legislation and any subsequent relevant statutes or founding documents. Our decisions should consistently align with the specific responsibilities and objectives set forth for this Commission, which are designed to advance the educational outcomes for all Nevada students. Our mission is to advance the public educational system within our purview; not individual agendas. When discussing a new idea, the focus should be on how it impacts all Nevada students and aligns with our statutory duties, rather than advocating for a single school district's specific financial gain.

- **Target discussions toward common policy objectives and actionable outcomes, preventing them from devolving into individual stances or partisan debates.** While individual perspectives are valuable, the goal is to find common ground and forge solutions that benefit the broader educational landscape of Nevada, rather than advocating solely for personal or specific constituent interests.
- **Make clear commitments and follow through with identified actions and responsibilities.** Effective governance relies on accountability. When tasks or responsibilities are assigned during meetings, ensure they are clearly documented and completed thoroughly and in a timely manner. Regular follow-up on these actions will be part of our meeting structure. This builds trust within the Commission and ensures progress on our statutory duties.

V. VALUE EACH OTHER

- **Be patient and attentive when listening to others speak.** Active listening, including taking notes if helpful, ensures full comprehension of different viewpoints and fosters an environment where all Commission members feel heard and respected. Avoid interrupting or formulating rebuttals while others are speaking.
- **Respect another person's point of view; disagree respectfully and openly.** It is natural and healthy for diverse opinions to emerge in policy discussions. Disagreement should be expressed constructively, focusing on the merits of the idea or policy proposal, supported by data or logical reasoning, rather than on personal attacks or dismissive language.
- **Examples of a constructive disagreement could be,** “That's a terrible idea,” members could phrase their dissent as, “I have a different perspective on that.” “My data suggests a different outcome, and here's why...” or “I'd like to propose an alternative solution that addresses the same problem but from a different angle.” This provides members with a practical toolkit for respectful and productive disagreement, which is a natural and healthy part of policy discussions.
- **Welcome diverse perspectives and voices, recognizing that each member has a unique perspective and voice.** Our strength as a Commission lies in the breadth of experience, expertise, and knowledge around the table. Actively encourage and value contributions from all members, recognizing that diverse angles and information lead to more robust and equitable decisions. Disagree with ideas and opinions, not people.

- **Be attentive to stakeholder input during public comment.** Public engagement is a cornerstone of good governance and crucial for understanding the impact of our decisions. Listen carefully and impartially to concerns, suggestions, and information shared by the public and stakeholders, as their input is vital for informed decision-making.

VI. FOCUS ON IMPROVEMENT

- **Be ready to contribute information and insights that will improve the outcomes of our meetings and the effectiveness of our Commission.** This includes bringing relevant data, research on best practices, case studies, or innovative ideas that can enhance our operations, policy development, or the effectiveness of our recommendations.
 - **If you state a problem or disagree with a proposal, strive to offer constructive solutions or alternatives.** When identifying a problem or disagreeing with a proposal, members are expected to come prepared with thoughtful, evidence-based suggestions or alternatives that can move the conversation forward constructively.
 - **Show each other courage and respect by having the necessary conversations directly and in the moment, fostering a culture of transparency and accountability.** Address issues or concerns openly and professionally during meetings, focusing on policy and process, rather than letting them fester or discussing them in private, informal settings. This promotes trust, efficient problem-solving, and ensures that all deliberations occur transparently and on the record.
-