

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION
AUGUST 20, 2025
9:00 AM**

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

DRAFT SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION MEETING

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

Commissioner Kenny Belknap
Vice President Shartriya Collier
Commissioner Rozane Deighan
Commissioner Jason Ginoza
Commissioner Christina Hollowood
President Amy Rozar
Commissioner Teresa Schultz

In Carson City:

Commissioner Hope Blinco
Commissioner Michele Haugen
Commissioner Jamie Hawkins

Virtually:

None

COMMISSION MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Commissioner Derild Parsons
Commissioner Shanon Taylor

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

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

In Carson City:

Dr. Jackie Nygaard, Educations Programs Professional, EDLiFE
David Monachino, IT Technician, Information Technology

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT:

Senior Deputy Attorney General Gregg Ott

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE

In Las Vegas:

Toby Babina, Clark County School District

Carson City:

Katie Schum, Washoe County School District

Presenters:

Dr. Jackie Nygaard, Education Programs Professional, EDLiFE

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

President Rozar called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m. Roll call attendance was taken as reflected above and a quorum was established. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Ginoza.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

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

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Rozar welcomed everyone in attendance to the Commission on Professional Standards in Education meeting and welcomed all students back for the opening of the new school year. President Rozar emphasized that with the new school year contract negotiations are going well with the teachers union. She welcomed new Commissioners appointed by the Governor, Rozane Deighan nominated by the Nevada PTA, Teresa Schultz, nominated by the Clark County Education Association, Shanon Taylor, nominated by University of Nevada, Reno.

4. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Jeff Briske Director, Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement (EDLiFE) reported to the Commission that the Department was busy during the summer preparing guidance documents, impact summaries, and board impacts to include the Commission. The Commission impact will be discussed in agenda item nine.

5. APPROVAL OF MAY 16, 2025, MINUTES (*Information/Discussion/For possible action*)

President Rozar asked the Commission if they would like to discuss the May 16, 2025, minutes. No discussion was made regarding the May 16, 2025, minutes. President Rozar entertained a motion to approve the May 16th meeting minutes.

Motion: Vice President Collier moved to approve the May 16, 2025, meeting minutes. Commissioner Belknap seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

6. PRAXIS BRIDGE – COMPETENCY EXAM ADOPTIONS. (*Information/Discussion/For possible action*).

The Commission considered adopting the Praxis Bridge option for current exams. Director Briske recapped that in the January meeting Dr. Mark Kirkemier from the Educational Testing Service (ETS), presented the Praxis Bridge option noted as agenda Item 6 Praxis Bridge Overview.

The Praxis Bridge option allows an educator, who fails their Praxis test within one standard error of measurement (1 SEM) of the passing score, to take a professional learning module instead of retaking the full exam. Based on the educator's score, ETS will provide a fully aligned module that matches the area of greatest difficulty. The module includes content overview, practice items and knowledge check designed to affirm their understanding of the material.

This Commission adopted the Praxis Bridge for the Elementary multiple subject exam 5001 series in January with an effective date of availability to educators of February 1, 2025, as that was the only exam available with the Praxis Bridge option. Nevada was the fourth state in the nation to adopt the Praxis Bridge option and the first state to adopt after the three pilot states. There are now eleven states who have adopted this option. The impact in Nevada for the Elementary multiple subject exam Praxis Bridge option can be found in the meeting materials labeled, "Item 6 Praxis Bridge Impact."

The table shows a summary of the impact by total number of test takers (10,093), passers (6,367), eligible candidates (1,180) who scored within 1 SEM allowing them to take the learning module. Of those eligible for the learning module, 347 purchased the module and of those who purchased the module 281, were alternate passers.

Additional exams are scheduled to be rolled out this fall. This item will be brought back to the Commission when they become available.

Director Briske asked the Commission to approve the next set of exams available for the Praxis Bridge Option which is the basic skills test in Math, English and Reading, Secondary English, Special Education Foundational Knowledge and Principals of Learning and Teaching for grades K-6 and 7-12.

President Rozar asked the Commission if there were any questions or discussion regarding the Praxis Bridge Option exams. Commissioner Schultz asked if there was an exam to take after an individual has taken the module or if they pass the module would they become eligible as if they had taken the Praxis exam. Director Briske explained that it was the Department's understanding that individuals who took the exam and did not pass within 1SEM would be given practice items designed within the areas of weakness identified by the exam they did not pass. The individual would then be required to complete a knowledge check which can be taken multiple times until they pass the knowledge check. Commissioner Hawkins shared a colleague's experience with the Praxis Bridge Option. The educator was having a difficult time passing one aspect of the elementary practice test. She decided to complete the Praxis Bridge Option and was very pleased. Commissioner Hawkins expressed that she approves all the modules Director Briske described in the Praxis Bridge Option.

President Rozar asked the Commission if there any further questions or discussions. There were no further discussions from the Commission and therefore President Rozar entertained a motion to adopt the Praxis Bridge Option for basic skills in Secondary English, Special Education Foundational Knowledge, and Principals of Learning and Teaching for grades K-6 and 7-12 exams.

Motion: Commissioner Hawkins moved to adopt the Praxis Bridge Competency Exams. Vice President Collier seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

7. APPROVAL OF EXISTING ALTERNATIVE ROUTE TO LICENSURE RENEWAL PROGRAMS. *(Information/Discussion/For possible action)*

Jackie Nygaard, Education Programs Professional with the Office of Educator Development, Licensure and Family Engagement presented information regarding Alternative Route to Licensure applications. Mr. Nygaard noted that the process involved a thorough audit of each program design utilizing their submitted crosswalk documents and evaluation of the documents against a comprehensive renewal rubric. The systematic review ensures that each program is robustly designed to meet all established requirements for educator licensure endorsement.

Over the past two years we have observed significant growth and trends within the Alternative Route to Licensure (ARL) landscape. There has been a substantial increase in the number of active ARL licensees rising from 468 in the 2023-2024 academic year to 1,083 in the 2024-2025 academic year. This highlights a growing reliance to ARLs to address educational staffing needs.

The Clark County School District continues to show the highest demand for ARL teachers with licensees increasing from 304 to 762. This indicates a critical need for educators in this area. In terms of endorsements; the most prolific endorsement areas are elementary in all subjects and special education generalists reflecting a particularly high demand for teachers in these fields. Some smaller districts such as Eureka and Lander County School Districts have maintained a consistent number of ARL licensees indicating stable but limited growth in the more rural areas. Charter schools have also demonstrated significant growth in ARL licensees underscoring their strong reliance on these pathways to effectively meet their staffing requirements.

While provider specific data is not yet available the implementation of the new online portal for applications and licensure, Opal is anticipated to enhance our capacity for future tracking and analysis so that we can get data down to the level of the individual providers.

Our audit this past couple of months utilizing the renewal rubric for each institution provided valuable insights into the design and effectiveness of the ARL program across three key areas. First, we looked at curriculum instruction and learning quality and programs demonstrated a strong alignment with state standards and a comprehensive approach to subject matter and pedagogical strategies. Programs consistently covered content and emphasized advanced instructional theories such as the science of reading and math. They generally prepared candidates to design and use various assessment methods analyze student data and differentiated instructions effectively. Second, we looked at the documentation quality and coherence and the review found that programs provided clear comprehensive and well organized crosswalk documents effectively demonstrating alignment with state requirements. These documents consistently offer sufficient information and evidence to support program alignment often

utilizing clear formatting and making the program design easy to understand. The crosswalks highlighted how program components were integrated to achieve their educational vision binary inconsistencies or ambiguities were minimal and noted for their refinement. Third, we looked at program environment and support systems. Programs which generally demonstrated a strong commitment to establishing positive classroom environments and providing structured support. They instilled expertise in creating inclusive culturally responsive and well managed classrooms that promote high expectations and student learning. Programs ensure art teachers have both mentor teachers and clinical supervisors that provide support and feedback throughout their early clinical experiences and when they become the teacher of record. Beyond the formal review we maintain positive and collaborative relationships with all of our ARL providers. This allows us to work closely with them to address any issues that may arise and continuously improve the quality and effectiveness.

Based on the thorough review of all submitted applications and crosswalks, the Department recommends the approval of all programs listed in the ARL Programs Biennial Renewal document. Mr. Nygaard noted that no substantive modifications were observed for these programs since their last renewal. Recommended for approval includes programs from:

- Grand Canyon University
- Great Basin College
- iteachNevada
- Nevada Teacher Corps/The New Teacher Project*
- Nevada Teachers of Tomorrow
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- University of Nevada, Reno
- Washoe County School District
- Western Governors University

*It is noted for the record that Nevada Teacher Corps have paused accepting applications due to funding.

Mr. Nygaard concluded his presentation and confirmed that the review process reaffirms the commitment of these qualified providers to prepare educators who meet Nevada's licensure standards, contributing significantly to our state's teaching workforce.

President Rozar asked the Commission if there were any questions or discussions regarding the approval of existing ARL licensure renewal programs. There were no questions or discussions from the Commission therefore President Rozar entertained a motion to approve the existing ARL licensure programs through August of 2027.

Motion: Commissioner Ginoza moved to approve the existing ARL licensure programs through August of 2027. Commissioner Belknap seconded the motion. Vice President Collier abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

8. TEMPORARY REGULATIONS REVIEW. (*Information/Discussion/For possible action*)

The Commission heard a review of temporary regulations and considered moving them to permanent Regulations at a future meeting. The Commission may approve or not approve moving the temporary regulations to permanent regulations.

Director Briske reviewed each of the temporary regulations with the Commission which are designed to be passed by a regulatory body when we are not allowed to do permanent regulations; during the legislative session.

Temporary regulation T001-24 is to ensure that applicants for a business and industry license have work experience in a business. Additionally, the Automotive Service Technology endorsement is no longer issued and was combined with the Automotive Technology endorsement in NAC 389.803. Specific work experience references were removed as this is updated frequently based on areas of career and technical education.

Temporary regulation T002-24 is designed to combine the two bilingual regulations into one by removing the exam requirement from the employer and adding it to the Department as it is in other content area endorsements and as required per NAC 391.036. The Bilingual major requirement was removed because such a major does not exist. A valid base teaching license would be required to hold this endorsement.

Temporary regulation T003-24's intent is to update these regulations to conform with other tiered endorsements which include the base endorsement and the specialist endorsement. These are the Cultural Competency, English Language Acquisition and Development, and the Social Emotional and Academic Development non-teaching endorsement.

The final temporary regulation T004-24 is to delineate specific areas for Ethnic Music and Ethnic Dance endorsements based on current and pilot programs in Nevada schools.

President Rozar asked the Commission if there are any questions or discussions regarding the temporary regulations. There were no questions or discussions and therefore President Rozar moved the temporary regulations to a public workshop at a future meeting.

9. 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION BOARD IMPACTS. (*Information/Discussion*)

The Commission heard a review of the 2025 legislative session and regulation work for the Commission. Director Briske explained that the Department prepared a document that can be found in the meeting materials regarding board impacts including regulations this Commission will need to generate and/or update.

Assembly Bill 49 (AB49) would allow the board of trustees of a school district or charter school to hire a teacher without a Nevada educator license if the applicant for employment has a valid license to teach in another jurisdiction, has applied to the Department for an educator license, and has completed a background check. This bill will go into effect starting July 1, 2026. The Department and Commission will need to write the regulation on how it will work. AB49 will also allow the board of Trustees of a

school district or charter school to hire a school nurse or school social worker if they have a valid license from their Nevada board, have applied for a Nevada educator license, and completed a background check. This regulation will also need to be written.

Senate Bill 81(SB81) removes the alternative route to licensure, (ARL) pathway for program and school administrators and requires an alternate pathway for already licensed educators. This bill also requires a three or five year provisional license for scholarship recipients. This means that the Department and Commission will need to design a pathway for administrators to obtain their administrative license if they are already licensed. The Department will also need to write a regulation allowing the Department to place a provision on a license if they received their license during their prep program and received scholarship support. The idea behind this is to keep teachers in the State of Nevada. The 25% hold back tuition for Teach Nevada scholarship was not showing the intended results. Therefore, the Department came up with another type of regulation that would be more effective in retaining teachers in Nevada. The teaching license will be encumbered which means they will not be able to use it for reciprocity for another state during the time period that was agreed when the scholarship was received.

SB115 requires a bilingual endorsement if teaching in a bilingual assignment. This is one of the temporary regulations.

SB175 allows military personnel and veterans who have a certification to teach JROTC to receive an endorsement to teach JROTC. The endorsement exists but will need to be amended to include a provisional option. Applicants would submit their letter from their military branch stating that they are certified to teach JROTC then we will issue a license. If the letter states that the individual is on a conditional or provisional path for training, the Department will issue a provisional license for three years allowing them to complete their training or certificate from the military.

SB277 allows a school psychologist, school counselor, and school social worker to obtain a Provisional license while completing their internship. We have this for school psychologists, but the regulation may need to be amended to add counseling and social work.

SB400 requires music and art teachers in an elementary school in a district with over 200,000 students to have an endorsement to teach music or art. This would be a new regulation.

SB460 requires all current K-3 teachers, administrators, and paraprofessionals to complete a course or professional development in the Science of Reading by July 2028 or for new employees, three years after their hire date. The bill also requires all approved educator preparation programs to include a Science of Reading literacy course by July 2028. There are several regulations that need to be amended. SB460 establishes requirements for the Registered Apprentice license. This endorsement already exists but will need to be amended so that it cannot be converted to a standard license until one year of in-service is completed as this is a requirement of the program. This bill also sets fingerprinting requirements when renewing a license. Director Briske explained that when teachers renew their licenses, they will get fingerprinted one time and will not have to fingerprint for subsequent license renewals. The same initial fingerprints will be utilized.

SB460 and AB286 were responsive to educators by providing alternate pathways for demonstrating Competency for the Principals of Learning and Teaching exams. These bills would now allow Nevada

Universities design competency-based coursework that can be completed in lieu of the Principals of Learning and Teaching exam.

Director Briske announced that the annual Commission report was shifted from December 31 to January 31 each year allowing time to include the full previous calendar year activities. He also noted that the Commission, which has always been a regulatory body established in 1987, will not need to have its regulations approved by the State Board moving forward. Regulations adopted by the Commission will go directly to the legislative Commission for final consideration.

Director Briske noted that Assembly Bill 177, though not listed on the board document, created a Speech language assistant license at the Speech-Language Hearing Aid Dispensing Board in Nevada. The Department will need to duplicate these requirements to be able to issue an educator speech language assistant license.

President Rozar asked the Commission if there were any questions or discussions regarding the regulation work. President Rozar commended the Department regarding the cost for educators to fingerprint each time an educator license is renewed and for a more streamlined process for regulations that are adopted by the Commission.

Director Briske clarified that there will be a charge for fingerprinting, but educators will not need to go to a fingerprinting vendor for fingerprints. The Department would need to pay the Department of Public Safety to process the fingerprints, but educators will no longer need to go to a vendor.

Commissioner Schultz asked if this new fingerprint change would speed up the fingerprint process or would the fingerprint process still have the same processing time. Director Briske explained that the Department of Public Safety has implemented the new processing system within their agency. Fingerprints in the past have had a traditional completion time of six to eight weeks; whereas now the Department is receiving completed fingerprints within one week of fingerprint submission. Commissioner Belknap noted that he experienced faster fingerprint completions when he renewed his educator license.

Commissioner Haugen asked if educators who are in existing positions under SB400, the art and music endorsement, would these positions be grandfathered in or would educators have a provisional and would then need to obtain the endorsement to stay in their current positions. Director Briske explained that in the past when regulations increase the requirements for licenses, we allowed at least one year for prep programs to update their programs but traditionally we have allowed three years. The Department would need to confer with counsel and the bill sponsor but most likely the requirement would not be enforced until three years after the regulation is written. Deputy Attorney General Greg Ott noted that there is always a desire to make sure requirements are not preventing educators from compliance. As the requirements move through the workshop and regulation process we learn more of what is needed to be done and how long it will take to put everything in place so normally by the time we get through the public workshops and hearings then to adoption hearing everyone is usually good. Deputy Attorney General Ott stated that what Director Briske stated on timeframes is historically accurate.

Commissioner Haugen asked what courses would be acceptable with regards to SB460, which requires

K3 educators to complete a course in Foundational Literacy Science of Reading. Director Briske noted that the way the SB460 is currently written states that the required coursework can be a college course or professional development course. The Department will work with RPD, universities and school districts to design the gold standard of the course. Once the course is designed, NDE staff will review and make sure all courses are approved, and a matrix of approved courses will be developed similar to our Multicultural and PIFE matrix.

President Rozar asked the Commission if there were any questions or further discussion on this agenda item. There were no questions or discussions therefore President Rozar moved this item to a Public Workshop at a future meeting.

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

- Competency Based Learning for Educator Preparation Programs
- Counseling regulation updates
- Workshops

11. PUBLIC COMMENT #2

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

12. ADJOURNMENT

President Rozar acknowledged the next Commission on Professional Standards meeting on September 17, 2025, and entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Commissioner Belknap moved to adjourn the meeting. President Rozar seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 A.M.