

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
ENGLISH LEARNER ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 10, 2026
2:00 PM**

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

DRAFT SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

In Carson City

Dr. Tanya Scott (Carson City School District)

Virtually

Dr. Alain Bengochea (UNLV)
Erick Casallas (Clark County School District)
Dr. Silvina Jover (Clark County School District)
Vanessa Mari (Nevada State University)
Janna Moyer (NDE)
Torrey Palmer (Deputy Superintendent, NDE)
Sarah Russell (Title III State Director, NDE)
Dr. Lidia Sedano (State Charter School Authority)
Lelsy Stewart (Elko County School District)
Diana Walker (Northwest Regional Professional Development)
Paola Zepher (Elementary Dual Language Principal)

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT EXCUSED

David Lamb (Nye County School District)

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT

In Carson City

Kelly Hoffman, Secretary

Virtually

Amelia Thibault, Legislative Liaison

LEGAL COUNCIL PRESENT

None

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE

None

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Chairperson Erick Casallas. Staff person Kelly Hoffman conducted the roll call. Quorum was established.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

- a. **Las Vegas:** No public comments were submitted.
- b. **Carson City / Online:** No public comments were submitted.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

Member Paola Zepher moved to approve the July 13, 2026, Council Meeting Minutes. Member Diana Walker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. PROPOSED POLICY PERSPECTIVES REVIEW

The Council reviewed three policy prospectus documents (*Interventions, Clarifying Metrics and Language, and Focus on Educators*) to categorize proposals as a Policy Recommendation, Bill Draft Request (BDR), or Tabled/Deferred.

1. Policy Prospectus: Interventions

Topic: Aligning Literacy Interventions and English Learner (EL) Supports

The Council discussed strategies to integrate language and literacy metrics into existing district structures.

Consensus: The Council supported a policy recommendation directing the Department to (1) develop early warning indicators of linguistic stagnation and (2) issue guidance integrating WIDA scores and language development goals directly into the student literacy performance plan templates. The third proposed item regarding the integration of EL supports with literacy interventionists was tabled.

Topic: Secondary Education Plan for English Learners

Members discussed the necessity of establishing specialized, student-specific academic plans starting in middle school to ensure proper course scheduling and progress toward graduation.

Consensus: The Council agreed to move this forward as Bill Draft Request (BDR) statutory language. The language will require specialized student-specific academic planning, integrate coursework toward graduation, and clarify responsibility at the school level. Department staff will contact the Washoe County School District to review their historical scheduling framework as a potential model.

Topic: Support English Learner Parental Engagement

The council considered a policy mandate requiring proportional EL parent representation on school and district-level advisory councils.

Consensus: The Council voted to advance this proposal as BDR statutory language. The mandate will establish a 10% EL population threshold to require at least one EL parent representative on new or existing advisory councils (aligning with Assembly Bill 335 requirements). Additionally, the Department will be asked to develop a supportive toolkit and recommendations regarding accessibility and translation technology.

2. **Policy Prospectus: Clarifying Metrics and Language**

Topic: Terminology Change

The Council evaluated adopting "Multilingual Learner" as a statutory synonym for "English Learner."

Consensus: The Council supported advancing this as a policy recommendation.

Topic: Supporting Existing Initiatives

NDE staff presented on NDE's Data Management System (DMS) and "data lake" infrastructure development. NDE staff also detailed ongoing collaboration with the Commission on School Funding regarding intervention-level expenditure coding.

Consensus: The Council supported advancing a policy recommendation to support continued work and allocations to NDE for the DMS and expenditure coding.

Topic: Identifying Multilingual Metrics for Integration

The Council evaluated which specific metrics should be integrated into NDE's public dashboards. Member Diana Walker requested that dually identified students (EL and IEP) include specific learning disability data to improve targeted services. The Council also discussed the critical need to accurately and safely capture immigrant and refugee student enrollment data.

Consensus: The Council supported moving this forward as a policy recommendation.

Topic: Review and Revise Entrance / Exit Criteria

Chairperson Casallas suggested a two-tiered exit criteria system: keeping a 4.5 overall cut score for grades K through 5 (using an English language arts-only alternative pathway and removing the mathematics requirement) and lowering the exit threshold to 4.0 or 4.2 for grades 6 through 12 due to elevated linguistic demands at the secondary level.

Consensus: The Council agreed to table final decisions on exit criteria and alternative pathways for future discussion. The Department was directed to conduct data simulations on secondary exit thresholds (comparing outcomes and fiscal impacts at 4.0 and 4.2 overall scores) to inform the Council's upcoming work.

3. Policy Prospectus: Focus on Educators

Due to time constraints, the Council voted to table the entire Focus on Educators portion of the prospectus to the next Council meeting.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

NDE staff announced that Ms. Johnson from the Colorado Department of Education will present on Colorado's READ plans and their integration of English learner metrics at the next council meeting on August 24, 2026.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT #2

No public comments were received in Carson City or online. The Las Vegas Board Room livestream was not functioning, and no public comments were received.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Member Paola Zepher moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Dr. Lidia Sedano seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:59 p.m.