

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
ENGLISH LEARNER ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 25, 2026
3:00 PM**

Office	Address	City	Meeting
Department of Education	2080 E. Flamingo	Las Vegas	Bighorn
Department of Education	700 E. Fifth St.	Carson	Silver Ore
Department of Education	Virtual	n/a	Teams

DRAFT SUMMARY MINUTES

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Torrey Palmer (Deputy Superintendent, NDE)
Sarah Russell (Title III State Director, NDE)
Janna Moyer (NDE)
Lelsy Stewart (Elko County School District)
Paola Zepher (Elementary Dual Language Principal)
Dr. Tanya Scott (Carson City School District)
Erick Casallas (Clark County School District)
Diana Walker (Northwest Regional Professional Development)
Lydia Sedano (State Charter School Authority)

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT EXCUSED

Vanessa Mari (Nevada State University)
Dr. Alain Bengochea (UNLV)
Dr. Silvina Jover (Clark County School District)
David Lamb (Nye County School District)

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT

Amelia Thibault, Legislative Liaison
Kelly Hoffman, Secretary

LEGAL COUNCIL PRESENT

None

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE

None

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at 3:12 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 Zepher moved to approve the May 20th, 2026, Meeting Minutes. Member Sedano seconded. Vote passed unanimously.

Member Walker moved to approve the Schedule of Meetings. Member Zepher seconded. Vote passed unanimously.

4. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING ENGLISH LEARNER DATA IN NEVADA

Sarah Russell, Title III State Director, NDE presented an overview of [Nevada's English Learners](#) demographics and proficiency benchmarks.

5. LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT AND POLICY PROSPECTUS UPDATES

Amelia Thibault (Legislative Liaison) presented a summary of legislative strategy frameworks ahead of the upcoming legislative session.

6. PROPOSED POLICY PERSPECTIVES REVIEW

The Council began reviewing the policy prospectus to categorize and prioritize policy recommendations. The Council completed discussions on the first three prospectus items:

1. Transitioning to Assets-Based Statutory Language

Consensus: The Council supported using "Multilingual Learner" as the preferred assets-based term, removing "Emergent Bilingual" from the proposed statutory language, and continuing to use "English Learner" for federal reporting, accountability, and funding purposes. Members agreed that terminology recommendations should be considered alongside the Council's remaining policy priorities before determining final legislative recommendations.

- 2. District-Level Parent Advisory Councils:** Council members discussed the need to avoid creating duplicative committees by aligning any new requirements with existing Title I, Title III, and Migrant Education parent advisory structures where appropriate. The Council also considered establishing implementation thresholds based on district English Learner enrollment or percentage of English Learners.

Consensus: The council agreed that additional research is needed before advancing a recommendation. Staff will review existing parent advisory requirements across programs, explore opportunities to align or integrate committee structures, and develop potential implementation models for future Council discussions. No legislative recommendation was made at this time.

- 3. Individualized Support and Tracking for ELs:** The Council discussed strategies to strengthen individualized support and progress monitoring for English Learners, with a focus on Long-Term English Learners (LTELs). Members emphasized the importance of building upon existing district systems and academic planning processes rather than creating additional compliance requirements for educators. The Council also discussed the need to examine successful practices from other states before developing recommendations.

Members additionally identified Nevada’s English Learner exit criteria as a potential future topic for Council consideration, noting interest in reviewing how the state’s proficiency threshold compares with those of other states.

Consensus: The Council agreed that additional research and discussions are needed before advancing a legislative recommendation. Staff will continue exploring best practices from other states and potential approaches for individualized support and progress monitoring, and the topic will be revisited at a future meeting.

Discussion of the remaining five policy prospectus items was deferred until the next Council meeting.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT #2

No public comments were received in Las Vegas, Carson City, or online.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.