NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
ENGLISH LEARNER ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 12, 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

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

In Carson City
Sarah Russell (Title III State Director, NDE)

In Las Vegas
None

Virtually
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)
Dr. Tanya Scott (Carson City School District)
Lelsy Stewart (Elko County School District)
Paola Zepher (Elementary Dual Language Principal)

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT EXCUSED
Dr. Alain Bengochea (UNLV)
David Lamb (Nye County School District)
Dr. Lidia Sedano (State Charter School Authority)
Diana Walker (Northwest Regional Professional Development)

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT

In Carson City
Kelly Hoffman, Secretary

Virtually
Amelia Thibault, Legislative Liaison

LEGAL COUNSEL PRESENT
None

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE
None

1. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL**
   Meeting called to order at 2:04 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 Lelsy Stewart moved to approve the September 28, 2026, Council Meeting Minutes. Member Janna Moyer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **DRAFT REPORT AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS REVIEW**
   The Council completed the final review of the draft ELAC Report and Recommendations.
   Results of this review are as follows:

Recommendations – Interventions

Item 5: The Council requests the drafting of a legislative measure to mandate proportional representation of parents and guardians of multilingual learners on local school and district advisory bodies.

Consensus: Re-framed mandatory advisory quotas as statutory rights and incorporated proportional parent representation metrics into annual district data reporting.

Recommendations – Clarify Metrics and Language

Item 6: The Council recommends statutory and regulatory language, to include guidance and communications, shift to utilizing asset-based terminology: “multilingual learner” rather than “English learner”.

Consensus: Approved as presented.

Recommendations – Focus on Educators

Item 9: The Council requests the drafting of a legislative measure requiring all Nevada educator preparatory programs integrate either the English Language Acquisition and Development (ELAD) or Bilingual Education endorsement into their standard programs for early education, elementary, and secondary education undergraduate degrees.

Consensus: The Council agreed to task the Commission on Professional Standards in Education (COPS) with conducting a comprehensive study on integrating English Language Acquisition and Development (ELAD) and Bilingual endorsements into higher education teacher preparation programs.

Report Approval

Member Paola Zepher moved to approve the revised Policy Recommendations Report for submission to the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB). Member Silvina Jover seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

5. DRAFT BILL DRAFT REQUEST REVIEW

The Council completed the initial review of the draft Bill Draft Request. Results of this review are as follows:

Secondary Graduation / Academic Success Plans (NRS 388.227)
Amends NRS 388.227 to require school district boards of trustees and charter school governing bodies to adopt policies authorizing individual graduation plans for middle and high school students (Grades 7-12) who are designated as English learners to include tailored academic supports and mandated collaboration with English learner support specialists, Individualized Education Plan (IEP) teams, or other specialized support personnel.

Consensus: Approved with incorporated editorial edits.

Duties of the Commission on School Funding (NRS 387.12463)
Add subsection 1(l) to NRS 387.12463, requiring the Commission on School Funding to review the adequacy of the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan (PCFP) English learner weight (NRS 387.1214) and consult with subject matter experts regarding expenditure definitions and categories for English learner services.

Consensus: Approved as written.

Categorical Grant Allocation Request for Educator Endorsements ($460,000)
Requests a state allocation of $460,000 across the 2027-2029 biennium (incorporating multi-year carryover provisions between FY28 and FY29) to fund scholarships and tuition assistance for pre-service candidates and practicing in-service teachers pursuing ELAD or Bilingual Education endorsements.

Consensus: Approved with editorial edits.

The remaining BDR items are set for final review and vote at the October 26, 2026 meeting.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT #2

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

7. ADJOURNMENT

Member Paola Zepher moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Lelsy Stewart seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:49 p.m.