

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
ENGLISH LEARNER ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 14, 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

Sarah Russell (Title III State Director, NDE)

In Las Vegas

Dr. Lidia Sedano (State Charter School Authority)

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)

Dr. Tanya Scott (Carson City School District)

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 COUNSEL PRESENT

None

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE

None

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at 2:02 p.m. by Vice Chair Alain Bengochea. Staff person Kelly Hoffman conducted the roll call. Quorum was established. Vice Chair Bengochea presided until 2:22 p.m., at which time Chair Casallas assumed the chair.

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 August 24, 2026, Council Meeting Minutes. Member Vanessa Mari seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. POLICY PROSPECTUS REVIEW

The Council completed review of the *Focus on Educators* and *Clarify Metrics and Language* policy prospectus documents to categorize proposals as a Policy Recommendation, Bill Draft Request (BDR), Tabled or No Advancement.

Policy Prospectus: Focus on Educators

Topic: Work with RPDPs and/or NDE

Consider broad coalition work to ensure available professional development is rigorous, high quality, job-embedded, and easily accessible, working with RPDPs and NDE.

Consensus: The Council agreed not to advance this item.

Topic: Funding Recommendations

Consider funding methods (i.e., grant funding) to support the cost of coursework, licensure, and time away from the classroom to support bilingual education endorsements.

Consensus: The Council agreed to advance a BDR categorical grant request (\$460,000 with carryover provisions) for pre-service and in-service scholarships for bilingual and ELAD endorsements.

Members evaluated amending statutory allowable uses for English Learner-weighted funding under the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan (PCFP).

Consensus: The Council agreed to advance BDR statutory language to expand and refine allowable uses of EL-weighted PCFP funding.

Topic: Assessing Leverage and Resources

All items within this topic were tabled for possible later discussion.

Expand Existing Programs

Council agreed the one item under this topic was addressed within the BDR categorical grant request for pre-service and in-service scholarships for bilingual and ELAD endorsements.

Policy Prospectus: Clarify Metrics and Language

Topic: Review and Revise Entrance / Exit Criteria

Consider directing the State Board and Department to conduct a study, make recommendations, and take action to review and revise the current entrance and exit procedures for English Learners

Consider changing exit criteria to limit the use of assessment scores to English language arts assessments as a condition for exiting English learner designation

Consensus: The Council supported a policy recommendation directing the Department to conduct a study of EL entrance/exit criteria and present findings by October 2028. In addition, the policy recommendation will include a directive to remove the mathematics assessment scores for the Alternative Reclassification Pathway.

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT READ ACT DEBRIEF

Staff directed the council to a tabled item from the Interventions Prospectus: Consider directing the Department to review ways to better integrate English learner supports with literacy interventions.

Consensus: The Council supported a policy recommendation directing the Department to analyze possible integration of Colorado DOE Like Peer Evaluations into the Read by Grade 3 program, specifically aligning language proficiency to interventions goals.

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY PROSPECTUS PRIORITIZATION

Amelia Thibault presented a summary of all BDR proposals and Policy Recommendations formulated across all the prospectus themes.

Consensus: Staff will prepare a draft report of policy recommendations and BDR submission for review, discussion and possible action at the next council meeting.

The Council heard discussion on possible routes for recommending continuation of the ELAC.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT #2

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

8. ADJOURNMENT

Member Lelsy Stewart moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Alain Bengochea seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:38 p.m.