NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
ENGLISH LEARNER ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 28, 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
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)
Lelsy Stewart (Elko County School District)
Diana Walker (Northwest Regional Professional Development)

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT EXCUSED
David Lamb (Nye County School District)
Dr. Tanya Scott (Carson City School District)
Paola Zepher (Elementary Dual Language Principal)

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 2:06 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 Vanessa Mari moved to approve the September 14, 2026, Council Meeting Minutes. Member Janna Moyer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Recommendations – Interventions

Item 1: The Council recommends the Department promulgate guidance and update literacy performance plan templates to include English Language development goals, language proficiency scores, and targeted linguistic supports.

Consensus: Approved with incorporated editorial edits.

Item 2: The Council recommends the Department evaluate and promulgate guidance on methods to better integrate English learner supports and language proficiency data within Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) literacy interventions aligning language acquisition targets with academic intervention goals.

Consensus: Approved with incorporated editorial edits.

Item 3: The Council recommends the Department develop early warning indicators of linguistic stagnation through a comparative cohort study of multilingual learners in secondary grades.

Consensus: Approved with incorporated editorial edits.

Item 4: The Council requests the drafting of a legislative measure to establish specialized academic plans for multilingual learners in grades 7 through 12 to support proper course scheduling, credit attainment, and on-time graduation.

Consensus: Approved as presented for BDR statutory drafting.

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: Approved for BDR statutory drafting with additions for interpretation and translation services.

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: Reserved for further survey feedback and discussion at the next meeting.

Item 7: The Council recommends continued investment in the Data Management System currently in production within the Department; expanding and/or revising data collection regarding primary/home language and students who are designated English learners and have an Individualized Education Plan; and continued support for the Department and Commission on School Funding as it relates to establishing intervention-level expenditure codes within the uniform accounting system for public schools.

Consensus: Approved with minor textual additions

Item 8: The Council recommends the Department conduct a review and take action to revise the current entrance and exit procedures for English learners, including the available alternative pathway criteria.

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: Reserved for further survey input and discussion at the next meeting.

Item 10: The Council recommends that the Department, LEAs, NSHE institutions, and the Regional Professional Development Programs work together to establish flexible and accessible in-service pathways for practicing educators to earn ELAD or Bilingual education endorsements.

Consensus: Approved as presented

Item 11: The Council requests the drafting of a legislative measure requesting the Commission on School Funding to evaluate changes to the allowable uses for English learner weighted funding to better reflect current need and usage.

Consensus: Approved as presented for BDR statutory drafting.

Item 12: The Council requests the drafting of a legislative measure, to include an allocation request of $460,000, to support pre-service and in-service educators pursuing ELAD or Bilingual Education endorsements.

Consensus: Approved for BDR statutory drafting with some edits on spending time limits.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT #2

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

6. ADJOURNMENT

Member Alain Bengochea moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Vanessa Mari seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.