

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
COMMISSION ON INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION
September 2, 2026
9:00 AM-4:30 PM

Office	Address	Meeting Room
Virtual	Zoom Link	Meeting ID: 83533578713; Passcode: 865762 Dial in: 12063379723 Passcode 83533578713#
Southwest Career and Technical Academy	7050 W Shelbourne Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89113	Ballroom

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF COMMISSION ON INNOVATION AND
EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION MEETING**

AGENDA

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marilyn Dondero-Loop, NV State Senate
Dr. Angela Taylor, NV State Senate
Selena Torres-Fossett, NV State Assembly
Tim Hughes, NV State Board of Education
Anthony Nunez, Principal, Cheyenne High School, Clark County School District
Patricia Charlton, Chair
Sean Parker, Center for the Future of Learning
Rebecca Dirks-Garcia, Parent Teacher Association
Dr. Steve Canavero, Executive Director, Education Service Center
Christopher Salute, Director, Great Basin College
Dr. Victor Wakefield, NV State Superintendent of Public Instruction
Teresa Dastrup, President, Elko County School District School Board
Stella Lee, Nevada Youth Legislator
Clayton Anderson, Superintendent, Elko County School District
Nicole Rourke, Director of Government and Public Affairs, City of Henderson
Dr. Kenneth Varner, Dean of the College of Education
Stella Lee, Non-Voting Participant
Jillian Wagoner, Nevada Youth Legislator

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Maite Salazar, Owner and Co-Founder, 3F Initiatives LLC
Dr. Matthew McNair, Chancellor, Nevada System of Higher Education
Tiffany Greenameyer, Director, Governor's Office of Finance
Dr. Carrie Buck, NV State Senate
Dr. Kenneth Varner, Associate Dean for Academic Programs, University of Nevada Las Vegas
Melany Carmenaty-Martinez, Nevada Youth Legislator
Erica Mosca, NV State Assembly
Dr. Gregory Koenig, NV State Assembly
Malinda Riemersma, Teacher, Sonoma Heights Elementary, Humboldt County School District
Sandra Kupfer, Teacher, Carroll Johnston Middle School, North Las Vegas
Mariluz Garcia, Washoe County Commissioner

Justin Dahoff, New Member
Dr. Bernnell Peltier-Glaze, Dean of the College of Education
Dr. Lindsay Diamond, Dean of the College of Education
Laura Jean Penrod, Non-Voting Participant

AGENDA

1. Call to Order, Roll Call

Chair Patty Charlton called the meeting to order at 9:11 AM. Roll call was conducted and a quorum was established. Notable announcement included acknowledging the upcoming retirement of Lisa Ford after nearly 25 years of service to Nevada education and noting that Deputy Attorney General Christena Georges-Burns was in attendance to provide legal counsel to the commission.

2. Public Comment #1

Chair Charlton opened the first period of public comment. Members of the public were provided the opportunity to participate in person, through written submissions, or via teleconference and Zoom. It was confirmed that no written or online public comments had been received, and the first public comment period was closed.

3. Approval of Flexible Agenda (Action Item)

Chair Charlton requested a motion be made to approve the use of a flexible agenda to accommodate the scheduling availability of key presenters which was moved by Senator Dondero-Loop and seconded by Vice Chair Parker; the motion was approved unanimously.

4. Review of Agenda, Goals and Work Plan for 26-27 (Agenda Item 4)

Commission members, guests, and support staff went around the room and online to introduce themselves and their affiliations. The Chair outlined the overarching goals for the 2026–2027 cycle, emphasizing a shift from broad visioning ("roadmap") to concrete implementation ("roadwork"). Facilitators from the National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE) guided the framing of the meeting's structured objectives.

5. Review of Commission Phase 2 Report (Agenda Item 6)

The Commission received an overview of the Measuring What Matters subcommittee's work and its statutory Members participated in break-out working groups centered on three strategic strands: World-Class Teaching and Learning, Next Generation Career Pathways, and Measuring What Matters. Following individual reflections and small group discussions, designated reporters summarized key insights:

- **World-Class Teaching and Learning:** Focused on defining core educational terms, establishing clear frameworks for best practices, and developing professional learning structures that make educator workloads manageable.
- **Next Generation Career Pathways:** Highlighted short-term, actionable policy steps, expanding pilot programs, avoiding burdensome "checkboxes" for academic planning, and integrating workforce development leaders directly.
- **Measuring What Matters:** Addressed standardized data systems, streamline processes for curriculum adoption, modularize standards, and establish parameters for side-by-side pilot testing.

Members spent time reviewing cross-strand connections during a working lunch and submitted individual priorities for the commission's focus over the next nine months

6. Nevada Bright Spots (Agenda Item 5)

Dr. Jesse Welsh, Deputy Superintendent from Clark County School District (CCSD), presented CCSD's newly adopted *Destination District* Strategic Plan.

- **Highlighted three main priorities:** Academic Excellence, Career Connected Learning & Durable Skills, and Safe & Supportive Schools.
- Details shared included target metrics for increasing College and Career Ready (CCR) diplomas to 60%, embedding durable skills into daily instruction, expanding middle school career exposure events, and leveraging Infinite Campus to track student participation in extracurricular activities to combat chronic absenteeism.

7. Review Data Responsibilities and Strategies (Agenda Item 7)

Dr. Steve Canavero presented an analysis from the Education Service Center (ESC) focused on reducing administrative reporting burdens under SB 460. Operating between the Nevada Department of Education and local school districts, the ESC aims to address 89 targeted reporting requirements and reclaim 50% of the estimated 5,560 hours district staff spend on administrative compliance each year. Relief is managed through a coordinated workflow where subject matter experts evaluate reports, allowing the Nevada Association of School Superintendents to petition the State Superintendent for temporary waivers. The process has already yielded results, with 16 duplicative or obsolete reports approved for temporary waiver.

Active review efforts are currently targeting priority complexes, including class size reduction variance requests, discipline data collections, and attendance reporting. Beyond administrative waivers, long-term policy considerations presented to the commission include establishing a statutory 3-to-5-year sunset clause for all legislative reporting mandates to prevent obsolete requirements from persisting indefinitely. The ESC also emphasized the importance of building mature, longitudinal data architecture and a unified statewide data dictionary to streamline reporting across systems.

8. Education Service Center School District Reporting Analysis (Agenda Item 8)

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9. Annual Student Achievement Performance Report (Agenda Item 9)

Superintendent Wakefield presented on the transition of the Annual Student Achievement Performance Report from the Commission on School Funding to CIEE. Per SB 460, this shift aligns the performance report with CIEE's broader charge to evaluate educational outcomes, innovation, and emerging state priorities, while allowing the Commission on School Funding to focus strictly on fiscal metrics under the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan. The report's scope covers key statutory indicators—such as literacy rates, graduation and dropout rates, AP exam scores, and higher education enrollment—while incorporating new, forward-looking measures.

To ensure a rigorous and repeatable process, NDE is in the final stages of securing an expert vendor contract to support CIEE in developing the report's measurement framework. The vendor will assist with collecting and validating data, identifying outcome gaps, analyzing financial-to-academic connections, and establishing a sustainable process for evaluating new student competencies over time. Commissioners emphasized the importance of using this report to

unify ongoing state data initiatives and coordinate a cohesive set of policy recommendations for the upcoming legislative session.

10. SB 460 Contracting Scope and Goals (Agenda Item 10)

The Nevada Department of Education provided an update on the \$1.5 million implementation pilot contract funded through SB 4. Currently pending Board of Examiners approval, the project focuses on selecting up to four pilot demonstration sites across the state over a nine-month period. The initiative is intentionally designed to test personalized competency-based education and career-connected learning in real school settings to evaluate educator practice and student experience before attempting broader statewide implementation.

The pilot will move through stages of design, capacity building, active implementation with coaching, and qualitative and quantitative evidence gathering. Participating sites will also utilize the newly established State Board of Education regulation framework (R077-25) to apply for necessary instructional and seat-time waivers. By evaluating these pilot sites, the Commission aims to move beyond theoretical recommendations and gather actionable evidence to inform future policy recommendations for the legislature.

11. Next Steps and Future Meetings (Agenda item 11)

The facilitators and leadership outlined steps to transition from visioning to a concrete 12-month implementation work plan, confirming that NCEE will synthesize meeting inputs to establish clear commission priorities across the three strategic strands. To balance workloads during the upcoming legislative session, future meeting schedules will strategically combine in-person working sessions with virtual briefings. The finalized work plan, draft agendas, and refined data frameworks will be presented at the next Commission meeting, which is officially scheduled for **October 20, 2026**.

12. Public Comment #2 (Agenda Item 12)

Chair Charlton opened the second period of public comment and provided members of the public with an opportunity to participate in person or remotely by telephone or Zoom. It was confirmed that no public comments were received either remotely or in writing.

13. Adjournment

Chair Charlton offered closing remarks thanking Lisa Ford for her nearly 25 years of service to Nevada education. With no further business before the commission, the meeting was officially adjourned at 3:04 PM.