



Commission on School Funding Update to the State Board of Education

Presented by:

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Topics

- Provide and update of the Commission on School Funding's activities and recommendations to date.
- Provide an update on the Commissions decisions and studies related to At-risk funding and next steps.

Purpose of the Commission

The purpose of the Commission on School Funding, per NRS 387.12463, includes providing guidance to school districts and the Department, monitor the implementation and/or make recommendations regarding, the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan (PCFP). This mandate has numerous provisions, including but not limited to legislative studies and statutory requirements. The related tasks are divided into three categories based on the allocation type:

Adjusted Base Funding

- Enrollment Count Methodologies
- Enrollment Trends
- Hold Harmless Procedures
- Nevada Cost of Education Index (NCEI)
- Attendance Area Adjustments
- Tiered Allocations
- Optimal Base Funding

Weighted Count Funding

- Enrollment Count Methodologies
- Stacking Weights
- Additional Student Populations for Weighted Categories
- Evaluate the Weights for Sufficiency
- State Special Education Funding Practices

PCFP Investments

- Investment in NDE
- Support of Education Services Center
- Competency Based Education Funding Strategies
- School Accessibility Report
- Student Outcomes Report
- Charter School Reserves

Recommendations for Adjusted Base Funding

- **Enrollment Count Methodologies:** Maintain the quarterly ADE process.
- **Hold Harmless Procedures:** Change the Hold Harmless check from 5% to 3% when comparing the current quarters ADE to the same quarter of the previous year. If Hold Harmless is triggered, funding will be reduced by 3%.
- **Enrollment Trends:** Reduce the Exceptional Enrollment Growth Adjustment (EEGA) threshold to 15% and allow for the addition of a new campus or when adding a grade level.
- **Nevada Cost of Education Index (NCEI):** Hold NCEI at a factor of 1.0 until state funding reaches 90% of the national average.

Recommendations for Adjusted Base Funding Continued

- **Attendance Area Adjustments** : Attendance Areas have been revised to:
 - Must be separated by more than 20 miles from another area and must be more than a 30-minute drive away from the district office during peak commute hours, or extenuating circumstances.
 - Phased in over four-years.
- **Tiered Allocations** : Calculate transportation based on a two-year average rather than the current four-year average and move charter transportation and include current grant funding into auxiliary tier of the PCFP.

Recommendations for Weighted Count Funding

- **Enrollment Count Methodologies:** Maintain the October 1 date for weighted counts.
- **Stacking Weights:** Stack the weighted categories (English Learner, At-Risk, and GATE). Implementation contingent upon additional state funding per the 2026 Optimal Funding study.
- **Additional Student Populations for Weighted Categories:** Remove the “quintile of pupils” language from the definition of “at-risk pupil” found in NRS 387.1211 and recommend the State Board of Education evaluate student counts and set the number periodically.

Recommendations for Investment

- **Investment in NDE:** Support an integrated financial management system, managed by NDE, for all financial reporting that satisfies education and taxation requirements within the next three to five years. In the interim, strengthen NDE's role in the collection of budget information.
- **Support of Education Service Center:** Identify areas where the Center could provide statewide support and recommend increase of funding and resources for the Center.
- **Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS):** The Commission reiterates its support of MTSS.

Commission Tasks Related to the At-risk Metric

- This work began in 2024, as a response to a Letter of Intent (August 18, 2023), requiring the Commission to conduct "[a] review of the use of the Grad Score for the funding plan and its effectiveness in identifying at-risk pupils."
 - [Preliminary findings](#) presented to the State Board of Education, April 3, 2025
 - Final Report released October 2025: [Understanding the At-risk Indicator](#)
- SB460 (2025) Sect. 12 (1)(h) codified in statute NRS 387.12463 (1) (h) requires the Commission to review and propose revisions to the method for calculating the percentage of at-risk pupils each even numbered year. As part of this review, the Commission must:
 - Select a third party to verify that the current calculation or algorithm accurately identifies the at-risk population.
 - Determine if a more accurate or effective method exists.
 - Receive a report from the third party with its findings and recommendations by September 1 of each even-numbered year.

Review of At-risk Metric

Commission actions to date:

- Maintained the October 1st date for At-risk student counts using GRAD Score to identify At-risk pupils for the 27/29 biennium.
- Recommendation to remove the “quintile of pupils” language from the definition of at-risk pupil found in NRS 387.1211 and recommend the State Board of Education evaluate student counts and set the number periodically.
- Presentation received on the preliminary findings of an impact analysis of the At-risk and English learner identifications on test scores, chronic absenteeism, and graduation rates in recent years. The final accompanying memo is anticipated by the end of August.

Commission actions remaining:

- Decision on a “smoothing “ approach to increase the stability of the At-risk counts (NRS 387.12463 1.(e)).
- Evaluation of additional student populations that should be considered At-risk (NRS 387.12463 1.(j)).

Questions?