SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2025 – 1:00 P.M.

Public Meeting at:

Zoom Link

Meeting ID: 882 7374 8253
Passcode: 2025

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1. INTRODUCTIONS

   The regular meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) was called to order. Roll call was taken, and quorum was determined:

   Present: Joshua Baker , Melissa Bart-Plange, Janet Belcove-Shalin, Barbara Bidell, MaryAnn Demchak, Jason Dietrich, Kaci Fleetwood, Megan Freeman, Yesenia Gonzales, Alison Greathouse, Sara Jorgensen, Doralee Martinez, Ellen Marquez, Lexi McEwen, Travis Mills, Matthew Montgomery, Jami Pavicic, Shanda Roderick, Christiane Schau, Shelly Speck, Jennifer Strobel, Karen Taycher, Sarah Thomas, Diane Thorkildson, Shannon Urquhart, Laurel Winchester and Rosalie Woods

   Absent: Penni Echols, Kyle Jensen, Christine Lenox, Melina Proffitt, and Amanda Shipp

   Staff: Julie Bowers
   Jessica Boles

   Presenters: Jennifer Kane

   Public: Sabrina Schnur
   Shelby Henderson
   Ms. Stacie

2. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

3. APPROVAL OF FLEXIBLE AGENDA

Motion: Ellen Marquez moved to approve the flexible agenda. Christiane Schau seconded the motion. The vote was called, and the motion was carried out without objection.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 08, 2025, meeting were reviewed and discussed. There were no other changes or corrections offered at this time.

Motion: MaryAnn Demchak moved to approve the minutes. Rosalie Woods seconded the motion. The vote was called, and the motion was carried out without objection. Four abstentions.

5. INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCAITON ACT (IDEA) SPOTLIGHT

Members will receive information regarding the various elements of IDEA.

Nevada TRIP- The Roadmap through Innovative Partnerships

- Nevada The Roadmap through Innovative Partnerships (Nevada TRIP) is all about empowering students with disabilities.
- Stems from a pot of grant money called the Disability Innovation Fund (DIF), comes through our rehabilitation services administration partners.
- Grants are ultimately about getting individuals with disabilities to competitive integrated employment. That is the end goal of this funding.
- Nevada TRIP aims to advance a comprehensive approach to seamless transition services for Nevada's children and youth with disabilities ages 10-24 by cultivating strong partnerships among agencies, surrounding students and families with seamless transition supports instead of asking them to navigate separate, siloed systems.
- The website is designed specifically to help children and youth with disabilities navigate the road from elementary to middle school, middle to high school, and high school to graduation, education and training, employment, and independence.
    - Nevada Trip Website
    - Launched on April 1, 2025, and is publicly available through the Visitor's Pass.
- The website will be fully functional in Spanish by the end of the summer of 2025.
- It is currently available through Student Registration to students in 3 pilot school districts:
    - Carson City
    - Humboldt
    - White Pine

- It will roll out during the 2025-2026 school year in:
    - Douglas
    - Nye
    - Pershing
- During the 2026-2027 school year in:
    - Elko
    - Eureka
    - Lander
    - Lincoln
    - Lyon
    - Washoe
- During the 2027-2028 school year in:
    - Churchill
    - Clark
    - Esmeralda
    - Mineral
    - Storey
    - State Public Charter School Authority
- Not the final version of the website, still have more than a year left in order to make changes. Anticipating the greatest number of changes this first year, all things will be continued to be built out.
- The project will also launch a Nevada TRIP app in the future.
- There are two roadmaps un the Nevada TRIP website.
    - The Under 14 roadmap created for children ages 10-13 focuses on self-advocacy and highlights younger characters.
    - The 14 and Over roadmap created for youth ages 14-24 is more comprehensive and focuses on all aspects of school to postschool transition, highlighting older characters.
- What is the ultimate goal of Nevada TRIP?
- What are the next steps?
- Project Partners- the project incorporates important partnerships between required partners (1-7) and additional partners (8-10) to ensure successful transitions and positive employment outcomes.
    - Nevada Department of Education
    - Nevada Vocational Rehabilitation
    - Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living
    - Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living
    - Carson City School District
    - Humboldt County School District
    - White Pine County School District
    - Nevada Statewide Independent Living Council
    - Nevada PEP Parent Training and Information Center
    - University of Nevada Reno, Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities
- Boards, Councils and Commissions
    - Nevada Statewide Independent Living Council

  - Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or Speech Impaired (NCDHHSI)
  - Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders (CASD)
  - Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities (CSPD)
  - Nevada Children's Behavioral Health Consortium
- Emotional Wellness Meter
  - Check in touch base point for the student.
  - Prompt: How are you feeling today?
    - I feel uneasy, I'd like support (Red).
      - View resources for emotional wellness, immediately available supports
    - I might need support (Yellow).
      - Can choose to view resources for emotional wellness or continue to the map
    - I feel good, I'm ready to start (Green).
      - Continue to the map
    - Looking for feedback on the emotional wellness meter, for additional supports and services for our students.
- Advisory Work Group
  - Nevada TRIP Advisory Work Group Needs You!
  - Seeking Nevada Children and youth (ages 10-24) with disabilities and those who support them to join the Nevada TRIP Advisory Work Group on a quest toward truly seamless transition from elementary to middle school, middle to high school, and high school to the adult world.
  - The Advisory Work Group will help drive Nevada TRIP by sharing experiences (what you know could help others), thoughts, and ideas on resources and services being developed by the project.
  - During the 2025-2026 school year, the Advisory Work Group will meet on Zoom 5:00-6:30pm on September 15, November 3, February 2, and May 4.

Motion: *No Motion was Made*

6. PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Members will receive information regarding a specific program that is happening in Nevada.

State Personnel Development Grant (Year 5)

- Grant ending September 30, 2025
- Project Achieve
  - Implemented in 18 classrooms in Carson and Lyon County School Districts
  - Teachers receive coaching on a weekly basis

    - All teacher observed using the ALCOT (The Autism and Low Incidence Classroom Observation Tool) Pennington, R.C. 2018
    - 26 instructional modules developed for CANVAS learning platform
    - Statewide coach was added to include more districts
    - Virtual observation and Coaching as well as use of Instructional modules open to all districts.
    - The students have benefited greatly from the program. There has been marked improvement in both Reading Comprehension and in basic math skills such as money, addition, subtraction, and in multiplication. Because of the versatility of the curriculum, it benefits students' varied learning styles.
- Assess, Plan, Teach- APT
    - Implemented in 31 schools across Clark County School District
    - 144 Teachers receive coaching on an ongoing basis
    - All teachers observed 3 times per year
    - Training: Science of Reading, 95 Core, MAP Growth and Goal Book
    - Ongoing Professional Learning Communities
    - LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) and HMH (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)
    - It opened my eyes and mind and inspired me to be creative, yet effective as an educator. The initiative showed me how to meet my students where they are rather than meet them where they are expected to be!
- Future of State Personnel Development Grant
    - There will be carry-over funds- NDE will apply for a no cost extension
    - NDE submitted an application for the 2025-2030 SPDG
    - NDE was notified that they would not be reviewing applications or funding any proposals
- Questions for SEAC from NDE
    - Would you like to see NDE continue to support Project Achieve and APT beyond the grant funds?
    - Are there changes you would suggest for implementation?
    - Are there aspects of the projects you would stop doing?
- Made plans for Project Achieve to move to Part B money and to work with UNLV's program. NDE want to see those continue and expand to all areas of Nevada.
- Clark has made a commitment to help support the project as much as they can.

Motion: *No Motion was Made*

7. NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION INFORMATION

Legislative Information

- Nevada State Legislature 83rd session has officially ended (12:35 am June 3rd)
- Education Funding 12.9 billion for a per pupil amount of #13,889 (2 dollars more)

- Cell Phone Bill- All boards must craft policies for cell phone use in schools including penalties and use during emergencies.
- NDE Bills:
    - AB573 Incentivizing Pathways- Passed
        - Building around our teaching resources, going to support nontraditional students to teaching degrees as well as enhance their endorsements for other programs, so that we can continue to recruit and retain the teachers that we need in Nevada.
    - SB460 New Education Regulation- Passed
    - SB174 and SB396 did not pass through to the floor
    - EC did not receive the funding expected, only 12.9 million

Other Office of Comprehensive Student Services Information

- Regulation Work
    - LCB File No. RO58-24 (Transition age 14)
- Important Dates to Remember
    - Part B applications due June 13, 2025
- Integrated Monitoring/Sustaining Compliance
    - District Monitoring Completed
        - Pershing
        - Storey
        - SPCSA
        - Lyon
- Sustaining Compliance and Improvement
    - District Report Cards released this week
    - Looks at all the indicators and the data we collect and does a report card for each district.
- Director Academies
    - New Special Education Administrators
        - Designed to support new and early district administrators in all aspects of implementing special education programs
        - 14 participants; 12 lessons covered over one year
        - Combination of online and in person learning
        - Virtual PLCs to connect and ask questions
        - Personalized Coaching/Mentoring
        - Final project of creating and presenting a district program plan, using data to evaluate program needs, set goals, and creating action steps for improvement.
    - Aspiring Special Education Administrators
        - Designed to provide a broad overview of Specia Education law and the role of SpEd Director.
        - 19 participants; 6 lessons covered over one semester
        - Self-paced online learning
        - Virtual PLCs to connect and ask questions

        - Concluded with a panel interview of experienced SpEd directors for participants to ask questions and learn from their experiences.
- Federal Allocations
    - Federal Special Education Grant Awards- State Fiscal Year 2026 (2025-2026)
    - Award to the State and then we allocate by formula to all of our school districts.
    - All districts received the same amount if not more- not one district received less money.
    - Nevada received less funding than last year.
    - Nevada is one of the lowest funded states in IDEA.
    - Priority Improvement Grant funds were awarded at the same level to all districts but could be used for district priorities. Not directed for a specified use
    - NDE anticipates changes to IDEA funds in the future
- Federal Updates
    - Trump Administration Proposed Budget:
        - Proposing $12.35 billion (15%) reduction in overall funding for ED discretionary programs which are inclusive of reductions described below;
        - Proposing funding for ESEA Title 1, Part A maintained at current levels;
        - Proposing to consolidate 18 separate individual K-12 funding streams into one $2 billion "Simplified Funding Program" (k-12 SFP) that would reduce funding levels for the underlying programs by about $4.5 billion if enacted;
        - Requesting that Congress retain requirements for the continued administration of state assessments under Title I of ESEA, notwithstanding the proposed consolidation of the ESEA State Assessments program within the proposed K-12 SFP;
        - Requesting a $60 million increase for the Charter Schools Program;
        - Proposing elimination of funding for the ESEA Title I, Part C Migrant Education Program, currently funded at $376 million;
        - Proposing the elimination of ESEA Title III English Language Acquisition funding, currently funded at $890 million;
        - Requesting level funding for Perkins CTE State Grants;
        - Proposing a $677 million increase for IDEA, Part B Grants to States, due to the consolidation of other IDEA funding streams into this program.

8. UPDATES FROM MAY MEETING

State Advisory Panel and State Interagency Coordinating Council

- Webinar on April 30, 2025, on public comment procedures and best practices.

- Work group is working on a resource folder, once it is public they will have it viewable to the public. Matt will provide Jessica to send out to the committee.
- No meeting in May due to the holiday, it will be reconvened later this month.

9. FUTURE SEAC MEETINGS

Meetings for next year

- Tentative dates will be sent out.
- New members coming on
- This is the last meeting for this school year.

Motion: *No Motion was Made*

10. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Committee conducted elections for Chair and Vice Chair of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) for the 2025-2026 school year.

Chair Election

- Ellen Marquez nominated Yesenia Gonzales. Yesenia accepted the nomination.
- Jason Diedrich nominated Matt Montgomery. Matt declined the nomination.
- Yesenia Gonzales nominated Ellen Marquez. Ellen declined the nomination.
- MaryAnn Demchak nominated Jason Diedrich. Jason accepted the nomination

Motion: A vote was held by the simple majority. Jason Dietrich was elected Chair of SEAC for the 2025-2026 school year. The vote was called, and the motion was carried out without objection.

Vice Chair Election

- Ellen Marquez nominated Melissa Bart-Plange. Melissa accepted the nomination.
- Melissa Bart-Plange and Jennifer Strobel nominated Yesenia Gonzales. Yesenia accepted the nomination.
- Karen Taycher nominated Travis Mills. Travis accepted the nomination.

Motion: An initial vote was held; no candidate received a majority. Melissa Bart-Plange and Yesenia Gonzales each received 35% of the votes. A runoff was conducted between Melissa and Yesenia. Melissa Bart-Plange was elected Vice-Chair of SEAC for the 2025-2026 school year. The vote was called, and the motion was carried out without objection.

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Behavior and Discipline (departments intention to support school district) – Karen Taycher
- Guidance for students to "Walk" with adjusted diploma – Karen Taycher

- Local enrollment trajectories over the past 5 years- Joseph Morgan
- SEAC committee having Student Spotlights
- Dropout Gap- Shanda Roderick
- Stakeholder Survey for dispute resolution flowchart- Shelly Speck
- Indicator 8 parent involvement surveys- Sara Jorgensen

Program Spotlight

- Rural Regional Resource Centers –being part of transition, equity from rural to urban, consistency statewide.
- NDALC
- Focus Program – UNLV
- NCED information and news/events- Travis Mills

Special Education Initiatives

- Data on the inclusion of young students with disabilities

IDEA Spotlight – Legal Requirements/Evidence Based Practice

- Linkage to IEP
- Case Law
- MOE
- Behavioral entitlements of students with disabilities, risk assessment
- Suspension/Expulsion
- Standing Reports-Restraint and Seclusion and dispute resolution, SPDG & Transition Grant

12. PUBLIC COMMENT #2

13. ADJOURNMENT