

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**COMMISSION ON SCHOOL FUNDING**

**February 20, 2026**

**9:00 AM**

<b>Office</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Room</b>
Department of Education	2080 E. Flamingo Rd.	Las Vegas	Board Room
Department of Education	700 E. Fifth St.	Carson City	Silver Ore
Department of Education	Virtual	Virtual	<a href="#">YouTube</a>

**MINUTES SUMMARY – Draft for approval at the March 27, 2026, meeting of the Commission**

**1. Call to Order, Roll Call**

Chair Guy Hobbs called the meeting of the Commission on School Funding to order at 9:06 a.m. The meeting was held in Las Vegas, Legislative Council Bureau (LCB) room 3, Carson City LCB Room 2135, and virtually via YouTube.

Roll call was conducted by Lisa Ford, Chief Strategy Officer for the Nevada Department of Education (NDE). Members present initially: Chair Guy Hobbs, Punam Mathur, Dr. Nancy Brune, Dusty Casey, Justin Dahoff, Ray Ritchie, and Cassandra Stalke. Members absent/excused initially: Joyce Woodhouse, Yolanda King, Ryan Reeves, and Mark Mathers. Quorum was established. (Note: Members Mark Mathers and Yolanda King joined the meeting in progress later in the session.)

**2. Public Comment #1**

Lena Torres Faucet, Executive Director of the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) of Nevada, provided public comment regarding Agenda Item 9 (Charter School Reserve Analysis). She emphasized that charter schools operate under a different structural reality than traditional public schools because they do not receive property taxes or facilities funding. She urged the Commission to view charter school reserves as a necessary mechanism for long-term financial stability, facilities planning, and managing enrollment fluctuations.

**Recess:** Deputy Attorney General Christina Jorgus Burns notified the Commission of a potential Open Meeting Law violation because the meeting was not being properly live streamed on YouTube as appropriately agendized. Chair Hobbs called for a recess until the technical issue was resolved. The meeting was officially reconvened at 10:43 a.m. A second roll call was taken, confirming quorum.

**3. Consent Agenda (For Possible Action)**

Information concerning the following consent agenda items has been provided to Commission members for study prior to the meeting. Unless a Commission member has a question concerning a particular item and asks that it be withdrawn from the consent list, all items are approved in one action.

- a. Possible Approval of January 16, 2026, Commission Minutes Summary & Transcription.

Nancy Brune and Yolanda King requested amendments to the January 16 minutes to reflect that they were present at that meeting. Motion: Member Ray Ritchie moved to approve the minutes with the noted amendments. Second: Dr. Nancy Brune/Ray Ritchie. Vote: Passed unanimously.

#### 4. **Nevada Department of Education Update** (Information and Discussion)

The Commission will receive an update on the progress made by the Nevada Department of Education since the last meeting.

- Dr. Victor Wakefield, Superintendent of Public Instruction, NDE
- Melissa Willis, Administrative Services Officer, NDE

Dr. Victor Wakefield provided opening remarks, noting that school funding is a powerful lever to drive change and highlighting an upcoming rollout of the NDE strategic priorities aimed at aligning funding, accountability, and support systems.

Melissa Willis provided NDE administrative updates. The Office of Pupil-Centered Funding has hired a new budget analyst, Andrew Okosun, and deployed attendance enrollment auditors into the field. Pupil-Centered Funding Plan (PCFP) expenditures have begun to outpace state education fund revenues for the year, requiring the NDE to receive IFC approval to temporarily borrow from the education stabilization account to meet monthly obligations. The department is beginning its 2028-2029 budget build process for agency requests.

#### 5. **Working Group Updates** (Information, Discussion, and Possible Action)

The Working Group Lead will provide an update on the activities of the Working Group since the last meeting. Commission may discuss and make possible recommendations based on information shared by the working groups.

- Guy Hobbs, Chair, Commission on School Funding

Chair Hobbs and working group leads provided brief timeline updates for upcoming deliverables:

- **Expenditure Reporting:** Member Casey expects to bring recommendations to the March meeting.
- **Nevada Cost of Education Index (NCEI):** Pushed to the March and April meetings to review methodology and necessity.
- **Optimal Funding:** Currently collecting statewide parcel data and awaiting NCES reports.
- **At-Risk / Adjusted Base:** Member Dayhoff noted meetings are scheduled ahead of the March 27 deadline.
- **Attendance Area Adjustments / ROI:** Member Mathers stated these will likely be presented in March.
- **Tiered Allocation:** Dr. Brune noted the group is awaiting NDE fiscal analysis, aiming for April.
- **Special Education:** Member Ritchie reported the group is waiting for feedback from NDE and consultants.

## 6. **Reporting Requirements** (Information, Discussion, and Possible Action)

Senate Bill 460 (83<sup>rd</sup> Session) states that each school district and each charter school shall submit an annual report to the Commission that identifies how funding from the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan is being used to improve the academic performance and progress of pupils, and includes, without limitation, all data or metrics collected by the school district or charter school to demonstrate such improvement. from schools/districts on how they are spending their PCFP money to improve student achievement. The Commission will discuss the format and timing of the report to be submitted and review the current report requirements of NRS 387.12468.

- Dr. Amanda Brown, Vice President, APA
- Kelsey Krausen, Director of Education Finance, WestEd

Dr. Amanda Brown and Kelsey Krausen presented on education funding in top-performing states (Mississippi, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Indiana, and Texas) and PCFP reporting requirements. Top-performing states utilize student-based funding, provide targeted dollars for at-risk students, and utilize stacked/duplicated weights. Comparatively, Nevada's per-pupil funding is lower, weights are unstacked, and class sizes are larger.

Krausen introduced discussions regarding the collection of returns on investment (ROI) and expenditure data. Members discussed the current reporting redundancies and the challenges of tracking how specific PCFP dollars directly improve student outcomes without a centralized data management system. The Commission agreed to continue monitoring data collection efforts without instituting new burdensome reporting mandates at this time.

## 7. **Enrollment Count Methodology and Trends** (Information, Discussion, and Possible Action)

Under NRS 387.12463(1)(b), the Commission is to monitor the implementation of the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan and make any recommendations that would improve the implementation or correct any deficiencies.

- Cassandra Stalke, Member, Commission on School Funding
- Dr. Amanda Brown, Vice President, APA
- Kelsey Krausen, Director of Education Finance, WestEd

Michaela Tonking presented models addressing base funding count volatility and the quarterly true-up process. Tonking outlined three scenarios for funding counts: Scenario 1 (prior year average), Scenario 2 (two-year average), and Scenario 3 (greater of the two).

During discussion, multiple members (Mathers, Casey, King) expressed concerns that funding based on historical averages decouples the budget from current enrollment realities and might delay districts from rightsizing their staff in the face of declining enrollment. Member Mathers suggested exploring a return to a single count day in the current year to eliminate the quarterly true-up entirely while maintaining a connection to current enrollment.

**Direction:** The Commission directed the presenters to analyze a "single count day" scenario and bring this item back for potential action at the next meeting.

8. **Weighted Funding Scenario Analysis** (Information, Discussion, and Possible Action)

Pursuant to NRS 387.12463(1)(c) the Commission shall review the weighted multiplier for weighted funding for each category of pupils appropriated by law for each biennium and recommend any revisions determined to be appropriate to create an optimal level of funding, including, without limitation, by recommending the creation or elimination of one or more categories of pupils to receive additional weighted funding. The Commission will receive a presentation on the current Weighted Funding strategies and possible variations related to count procedures and possible stacking of weighted categories.

- Dr. Amanda Brown, Vice President, APA
- Kelsey Krausen, Director of Education Finance, WestEd

Justin Silverstein presented data on the volatility of weighted student counts (English Learners, At-Risk, and GATE) and the overlap in student eligibility. Fully 28% of weighted students are eligible for more than one category. Currently, Nevada only funds the single highest weight per student. Implementing a fully stacked weight model would require roughly \$200 million in additional state funding, or alternatively, a significant reduction in the base funding amount or the individual weights. The presentation noted that Special Education (IEP) services have minimal overlap with EL or At-Risk services.

**Motion:** Chair Hobbs moved that the Commission supports the concept of stacking weights with the exclusion of Special Education; recognizes the potential for discounted weights to account for service overlaps (such as EL and At-Risk); and recommends that stacking be implemented contingent upon additional state funding being provided to hit specific fiscal triggers, with exact details to be brought back in the final report for Commission approval.

**Second:** Member Mathers. Vote: Passed, with one member opposing/abstaining.

9. **Charter School Reserve Analysis** (Information, Discussion, and Possible Action)

Pursuant to NRS 387.12463(1)(b) the Commission shall monitor the implementation of the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan and make any recommendations to the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Education that the Commission determines would, within the limits of appropriated funding, improve the implementation of the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan or correct any deficiencies of the Department or any school district or public school in carrying out the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan. The Department will provide an overview of the current End Fund Balance process for the districts and Clark. SPCSA will present how charters use reserve balances.

- Melissa Willis, Administrative Services Officer, NDE
- Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director, State Public Charter School Authority
- Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing, State Public Charter School Authority

Melissa Mackedon and Dr. Katie Broughton from the SPCSA presented an overview of charter school finances. They explained that charter schools do not receive auxiliary services funding (transportation, food), local property taxes, or voter-approved bond funds. Consequently, charter schools rely on operational reserves to finance facility purchases, satisfy strict bond covenant liquidity requirements (days-cash-on-hand), and self-fund long-term capital maintenance.

The Commission acknowledged the structural necessity of these reserves. Discussion focused on whether a cap (e.g., 20%) should be recommended limiting the specific percentage of PCFP funding that a charter school can transfer into its reserves in a single year.

**Direction:** The Commission directed the working group to gather additional data on the potential of capping the annual accrual of PCFP funds into reserves, to be brought back at a future meeting.

#### **10. Discussion on Bill Draft Request (Information, Discussion, and Possible Action)**

The Commission will have a discussion on the procedures and parameters related to drafting and submitting a Bill Draft Request for the 2027 Legislative Session pursuant to Senate Bill 460 (2025).

- Guy Hobbs, Chair, Commission on School Funding

Melissa Willis outlined parameters for the Commission's BDR for the 2027 Legislative Session, noting it must remain within a single subject area (K-12 education) but can span multiple NRS chapters. NDE provided a tracking document to align working group recommendations with statutory chapters and BDR deadlines (draft due June 1). Chair Hobbs suggested deferring specific prioritization of BDR topics to the next meeting to allow the Commission to strategically decide whether to pursue a broad omnibus bill or focus narrowly on optimal funding targets.

#### **11. Future Agenda Items (Information and Discussion)**

Items not appearing on the agenda may be considered possible topics for the Commission to hear at the next meeting.

- Guy Hobbs, Chair, Commission on School Funding

Future items will include bringing back the single count day scenario for base funding, NCEI methodology, further charter school reserve data, and BDR topic prioritization.

#### **12. Public Comment #2**

Chair Hobbs opened the floor for the second public comment period. There was no public comment in Carson City or Las Vegas, nor were there any written or telephonic comments.

#### **13. Adjournment**

With no further business, Chair Hobbs adjourned the meeting