

Nevada Department of Education

Bill Draft Request Overview Presentation
Dr. Victor Wakefield
Superintendent of Public Instruction
October 7, 2026



Superintendent's Priorities

Launch the STIP

Roll out and refine NDE's strategic plan through public engagement, building statewide alignment around a shared vision for student success.

Activate NDE Leadership

Complete and activate NDE's Cabinet and leadership bodies to advance our priorities with clarity, accountability, and shared ownership.

Strengthen Fiscal Stewardship

Strengthen NDE's fiscal stewardship through fine tuning systems, enhancing collaboration, and stabilizing our team.

Prepare for 2027 Legislative Session

Develop a cohesive policy and budget agenda that advances NDE's strategic priorities.

Benchmarks for Jan 1st:

- ✔ STIP adopted and implementation underway.
- ✔ NDE Leadership team fully operational with agency systems aligned for execution.

Emergency Regulation - School Funding

On September 25, an Emergency Regulation was approved for the Department regarding school funding. The regulation is effective for 120 days, which brings us to the beginning of the Legislative Session, where legislators could take further action.

- Typically, school funding is apportioned based on quarterly average daily enrollment counts by district and charter school, multiplying the adjusted base per-pupil by the average daily enrollment count .
- However, with sharp enrollment declines, the fiscal impact of the enrollment declines would lead many Nevada school districts to a Reduction in Force (RIF), disruption of services to students, and negative impacts on student learning across Nevada.
- The emergency regulation allows the Department to use the projected enrollment counts for SY26-27 established in SB500 (2025) for payment purposes October-February.
- The Department addresses the issues raised with payments based on quarterly average daily enrollment counts in our policy BDR Aligned Systems by proposing the use of a 4-quarter calendar year average for budgeting and payment purposes, stabilizing enrollment for financial planning purposes

Statewide Literacy Convenings



NEVADA'S STATEWIDE K-5 LITERACY CONVENINGS

PURPOSE & GOALS
Nevada's Statewide K-5 Literacy Convenings will bring together district, school, and classroom leaders to translate Nevada's emerging statewide literacy vision into concrete actions to strengthen implementation across local contexts.

- ▶ Build shared understanding of Nevada's emerging statewide literacy vision and strong K-5 literacy instruction.
- ▶ Explore tools and practices that support strong implementation of K-5 literacy.
- ▶ Connect across roles and districts to share learnings and advance Read by Grade Three goals.

AUDIENCE
Convenings are designed for vertical teams of district, school, and classroom leaders to support literacy instruction. Districts are invited to send a team of 8-15 participants.

- District
- District
- School
- Literacy
- Classroom

REGIONAL
Regional convenings will focus on the same core themes for application to local contexts.

October 6th
October 21st
October 26th
All convenings are held from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

REGISTER BY SEPTEMBER 25TH
[Team Registration Form](#)

QUESTIONS?
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Nevada's Theory of Action for Advancing Strong Instruction

NDE Believes
Every student deserves strong, grade-level instruction every day. As the state education agency, the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) has a responsibility to give every teacher, coach, and leader in Nevada a clear answer to the question: what should strong instruction look like and sound like for our students?

NDE's Vision For Students
Every day, in every Nevada classroom, students are:

Building knowledge of the world.	Engaging with grade-level content and instruction.	Solving complex problems together.	Making progress toward their postsecondary goals.
In literacy, our students achieve grade-level proficiency and build confidence as readers, writers, and communicators in ELA and across content areas by: ■ Developing foundational literacy skills through systematic and explicit instruction in the early grades and targeted skills with adolescent readers. ■ Actively reading grade-level, high-quality, complex text across genres (read aloud in early grades). ■ Expanding their knowledge and vocabulary through content-rich texts. ■ Building and demonstrating understanding of text through discourse and writing.	In math, our students achieve grade-level proficiency and build a positive identity and disposition toward mathematics by: ■ Building grade-level conceptual understanding and numeracy, alongside procedural fluency and automaticity. ■ Engaging in hands-on, complex, real-world problem solving. ■ Justifying and evaluating their reasoning through mathematical discourse.		

Students not yet meeting grade-level expectations receive additional support aligned with core instruction that ensures access to grade-level content.

One Vision, Three Aligned Parts
Achieving this vision requires an aligned system of curriculum, assessment, and instruction, all grounded in the Nevada state standards and the instructional shifts they require: the materials students learn from, how we know they are learning, and what actually happens in the classroom every day. NDE is building this alignment at the state level, and is dedicated to supporting districts and schools in building it locally.



- Thank you for registering your district teams!
We have 14/18 districts registered.
- Sharing NDE's Theory of Action for Advancing Strong Instruction
- Facilitated with the support of TFA Nevada and Instruction Partners
- Dates: 10/6 in Vegas; 10/21 in Reno; 10/26 in Elko

STIP Survey + Public Feedback

Nevada stakeholders are invited to complete this survey by **October 21** to inform the final STIP submitted for approval later this year.

Click this [link](#) or scan the QR code below to access the survey.



Department Legislative Priorities

- Deep alignment between NDE priorities, STIP goals, and Bill Draft Requests
- The focus was on “housekeeping” – refining and strengthening existing systems and processes
- NDE gets 5 Policy BDRs – Policy BDRs have no fiscal impact, so no new staff, vendors, or funding is associated with this work
- NDE also has a handful of budgetary BDRs and are working with the Commission on School Funding and the English Learners Advisory Council on the BDRs each of those bodies was granted
- As an executive agency, NDE BDRs are confidential until published by LCB or the Governor

BDRs Alignment to Statewide Plan for the Improvement of Pupils (STIP)

Informed both by data and the lived experience of Nevadan educators and students, these priorities focus collective efforts and ensure Nevada students thrive in school and graduate prepared for success in college, career, and life.



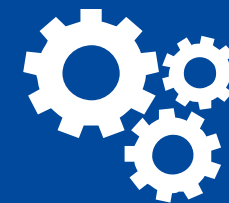
Strong Foundations



Informed and Connected Families



Empowering Pathways



Aligned Systems



Equipped Educators & Leaders

Strong Foundations (BDR 228)

Instructional Materials: *Establish criteria for high-quality instructional materials with alignment to tier-1 instruction; require the use of approved high-quality instructional materials for all courses in mathematics, English language arts, and science, with approved standards-aligned materials for all other courses with academic content standards*

Early Intervention: *Early literacy and RBG3 cleanup, clarifying intervention and retention policies, assessments, science of reading requirements.*

Empowering Pathways (BDR 230)

Graduation Plans: *Create a single, comprehensive individual plan of study grades 7-13 (first year post-graduation); align academic, career, postsecondary planning into a single plan; middle school transition supports*

Career Preparedness: *Adds required career exploration credit to middle school; explores regional CTE centers and more flexible scheduling to expand access; focuses on alignment between IRC, dual credit, WBL, CTE, and in-demand programs*

Quality and Access: *Clarifies open enrollment and opportunity mapping for families*

Graduation Success (BDR 231)

Postsecondary Success: *Conduct a study on diplomas, graduation requirements, courses of study, and units of credit; shift SEAL programs from NRS to NAC under Board authority*

Career Preparedness: *Conduct a study on integrated academic and CTE coursework and credit*

Equipped Educators (BDR 232)

Support: *Establish a comprehensive statewide system for the delivery of professional learning in alignment with district/school-identified needs; update professional learning program standards and establish framework for professional learning requirements to include limitations on the time for legislatively-prescribed professional learning*

Preparation: *Expand eligibility for educator scholarships; licensure cleanup re: fingerprinting and background checks; expand scope for Recruitment and Retention Commission*

Aligned Systems (BDR 229)

Quality and Access: *Align strategic improvement planning with Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) and Nevada District Performance Framework (NDPF); align multiple plans into single comprehensive plan; establish differentiated systems of review, monitoring, and support for school/district improvement; align state and federal processes; integrate improvement goals with performance monitoring*

Coherence: *Creates intervention-level coding within chart of accounts; shift budget/payment to annual Average Daily Enrollment (ADE) reporting; address reporting requirements and reporting due dates; statutory and terminology cleanup*

Aligned Systems & Emergency Order

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- However, with sharp enrollment declines, this has resulted in difficult budget deficits across Nevada
- The emergency regulation allows the Department to use the **projected enrollment counts** for SY26-27 established in SB500 (2025) for payment purposes October-February.
- The Department addresses the issues raised with payments based on quarterly average daily enrollment counts in our policy BDR **Aligned Systems**.
- Our proposed solution is to use a 4-quarter calendar year average for budgeting and payment purposes, stabilizing enrollment for financial planning purposes



Thank you
