



The Nevada Department of Education recently conducted a listening tour to better understand what opportunities exist to improve the experiences of students from those closest to the work.

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Districts/LEAs with enrollment ranging from 400 students to 280,000 students

classroom visits

district trustees participated in small group meetings

structured dialogues with groups of students, educators, and leaders

Guiding Questions

Takeaways

Bright Spots

Strong Foundations

How well does our system help every student develop the academic foundations of literacy, math, science, and social studies?

A recurring theme was **inconsistency** in outcomes, instructional quality, and system direction. This is especially felt by English Learners and students with disabilities.

Schools with strong leadership and culture, focused learning environments, aligned Tier 1 instruction with high-quality materials, and effective interventions are showing what's possible and seeing gains.

Empowering Pathways

How well are students prepared for a productive next step on the path to high-demand, high-wage careers?

Access remains uneven. Resourcing, regulatory, and operational barriers limit the ability to scale postsecondary readiness opportunities.

Across district visits, there was evidence of exceptional CTE, dual credit, and hands-on learning driving engagement and results.

Equipped Educators and Leaders

How well-prepared, supported, and valued is Nevada's educator workforce?

Shortages persist in hard-to-staff schools, subjects, and rural areas, and educators shared **concerns about workload, burnout, student behaviors, and misaligned expectations** between families and schools.

New entry pathways bring strengths, and highlight the need for stronger onboarding and support.

Informed and Connected Families

How connected are families to their child's education, and do they receive clear, actionable information to support their children's success?

While family engagement is strong at individual schools and in pockets, **system-level trust has frayed.**

Positive stories surface in small, tight-knit communities where students grow up learning together; and in schools families actively choose.

Aligned and Coherent Systems

How well are our data, funding, and accountability systems aligned to drive continuous improvement and better student outcomes?

District leaders described **fragmentation** across data, funding, and accountability, which makes planning harder.

Local success exist where steady governance is in place, where spending is aligned to priorities, and where funds have been braided together (e.g., apprenticeships).

To learn more about the Nevada Department of Education's strategic priorities, click here.