



NEVADA
Department of
Education

Strategic Priorities

March 2026
State Board of Education

Entry Plan - First 100 Days



Set a Shared Direction

Clarify our statewide priorities, align efforts around what works, and celebrate success.

Strengthen State Capacity

Continue making progress toward a more agile, responsive, and service-driven Department of Education.

Lead Through Partnership

Listen deeply, learn from those closest to the work, and strengthen trust across Nevada's education community.

Benchmarks:

- ✓ March 1 (100 Days): Complete NDE context-building, signal priorities, and deliver early wins that demonstrate clarity and momentum
- ✓ September 1 (10 Months): Release multi-year framework; FY 27-29 budget proposal aligned to priorities

Build trust, increase clarity, and carry forward the momentum

Listening Tour



8

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

25

Classroom visits

22

District Trustees participated in small group meetings

9

Structured dialogues with groups of NDE staff, students, educators, and leaders

5

Guiding Questions

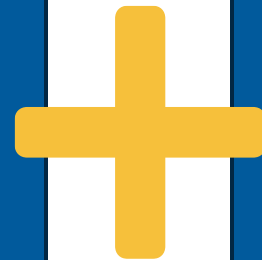
Our Vision



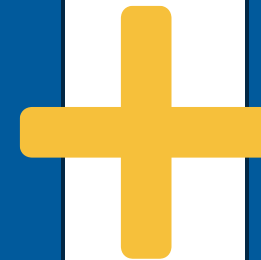
Every day, students are...



**Building
knowledge of the
world.**



**Engaging with
grade-level
content and
instruction.**



**Solving complex
problems
together.**



**Making progress
toward their
postsecondary
goals.**

NDE will achieve this vision by focusing on five core priorities.

Our Strategic Priorities



Together, these priorities focus collective efforts and ensure Nevada students thrive in school and graduate prepared for success in college, career, and life.



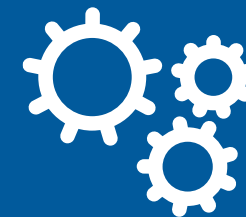
Strong Foundations



**Informed and
Connected Families**



Empowering Pathways



Aligned Systems



**Equipped Educators &
Leaders**

Strong Foundations



Our Strategic Priorities



Academic foundations are improving, but remain inconsistent.

45.6%

Percent of grade 3 - 8 students **proficient** on ELA state assessment

+4.4 percentage point increase from prior year

35.4%

Percent of grade 3 - 8 students **proficient** on Math state assessment

+2.9 percentage point increase from prior year

18.0%

Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in **high-quality pre-K** (2025 - 2026)

+9.0 percentage point increase from prior year

14.2%

Percent of grade 3-8 **English Language** students proficient (vs. 46% all students)

+3.0 percentage point increase from prior year

Listening Tour Takeaways:

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

Bright spots point the way: 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.



Strong Foundations: Ensure students start strong and build the academic foundations that deeper learning depends on.



How will we measure success annually?

<p>Pre-K</p>	<p>Expand pre-K access to high-quality seats.</p>
<p>Curriculum</p>	<p>Support educators in adopting and using high-quality instructional materials (HQIM) across core subjects.</p>
<p>Early Intervention</p>	<p>Provide early academic interventions for students who need additional support.</p>

% of eligible 4 year olds in high-quality Pre-K

% of schools that have adopted HQIM in ELA, math, science, social studies, and digital literacy

% grade 3 proficient in ELA/Reading

% grade 8 proficient in math

Priority 1: Strong Foundations

Empowering Pathways



Enabling Opportunities



Nevada has strong models, but too few students can access them.

85.4%

Percent of students
graduating
(Class of 2025)

+3.8 percentage point
increase from prior year

24.3%

Percent of 2025
graduates **earning**
a **CCR diploma**

+2.9 percentage point
increase from prior year

48.4%

Percent of high
school students
(74,510) **enrolled in**
CTE

15.2%

Percent of Nevada
youth aged 16-24 who
are **disconnected** -
neither in school nor
working

Listening Tour Takeaways:

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

Bright spots point the way: Across district visits, there was evidence of exceptional CTE, dual credit, and hands-on learning driving engagement and results.



Empowering Pathways: Expand access to high-quality pathways that help students develop skills, explore interests, and prepare for their future.



How will we measure success annually?

Graduation Plans	Ensure every student beginning in middle school has a yearly conversation and a clear plan for graduation and beyond.
Career Pathways	Make it easier for students to access coursework and experiences aligned with high-wage, high-demand careers.
Postsecondary Success	Ensure every diploma is a pathway to postsecondary success.

% of students entering high school credit sufficient in ELA, math, and CTE exploration

% of secondary students accessing advanced, specialized, or CTE courses

% of students graduating with the CCR diploma

Priority 2: Empowering Pathways

Equipped Educators and Leaders



Equipped Educators and Leaders.



Pipeline progress has been made, but there are new challenges ahead.

-26%

Percent decrease in classroom vacancies compared to the previous year

+10.0

Percentage point increase in teacher pay from 2023 state investments (varies district to district)

16.3%

Percent of highly effective employees based on professional qualifications of teachers, employees, principals, and other school leaders

Listening Tour Takeaways:

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.

Bright spots point the way: New entry pathways bring strengths, and highlight the need for stronger onboarding and support.



Equipped Educators and Leaders: Attract, support, and retain strong educators and leaders to meet evolving student needs.



How will we measure success annually?

Preparation	Increase the quality and quantity of new teachers and leaders prepared to serve Nevada's students.
Career Growth	Match educator pay and growth opportunities to their role, skills, and impact.
Support	Equip teachers and leaders with the tools and training they need to provide strong aligned instruction.

- % pipeline growth in high-need subjects areas
- % of teacher vacancies filled
- % of students taught by a certified, in-field teacher
- % of effective teachers & leaders retained

Priority 3: Equipped Educators and Leaders

Informed and Connected Families



Informed and Connected Families.



Trust is uneven and must be rebuilt.

23%

Proficiency Gap between Title 1 and non-Title 1 qualifying schools in ELA and math

41.4%

Percentage of schools rated 1 or 2 Star by the Nevada School Performance Framework

+5.8%

Increase in percentage of 5 Star Schools from the previous year

26.6%

Percentage of students **chronically absent** in 2024-2025

-2.7 percentage point decrease from prior year

Listening Tour Takeaways:

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

Bright spots point the way: Positive stories surface in small, tight-knit communities where students grow up learning together; and in schools families **actively choose.**



Informed and Connected Families: Enable families and communities to be active, informed partners in education.



How will we measure success annually?

Transparency	Provide clear, timely, and actionable information to families through Nevada’s accountability frameworks.
Access	Ensure families without high-quality zoned options have priority access to specialized offerings.
Quality	Escalate supports, oversight, and options to accelerate school improvement and expand access to effective instruction.

% of families reporting the report card is clear/easy to use

% of students attending low-performing schools

% of historically underserved students enrolled in 4- or 5-Star schools

Aligned Systems



Aligned Systems.



Nevada needs clearer definitions of success and better-aligned systems.

69%

Percent of LEA staff rating the **Customer Service** role of NDE as "Fair/Poor"

81%

Percent of LEA staff who report receiving **duplicative or inconsistent directives** from the NDE

41%

Percent of districts with **declining ending fund balance** trends

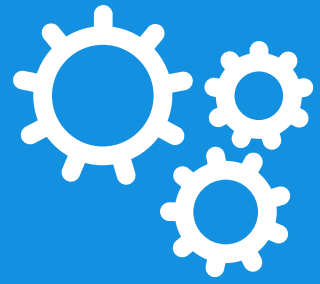
-28,500

Statewide enrollment decline since the 2019-2020 school year

Listening Tour Takeaways:

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

Bright spots point the way: Bright spots exist where steady governance is in place, where spending is aligned to priorities, and where funds have been braided together (e.g., apprenticeships).



Aligned Systems: Define success and align expectations, resources, and supports to accelerate progress.



How will we measure success annually?

Coherence	Set a shared vision for what strong schools and districts do, and align NDE’s funding, accountability, and support to match it.
Streamlined Submissions	Streamline district and school planning submissions, remove redundant reporting, and modernize processes.
Coalitions	Contribute NDE capabilities and target resources to aligned coalition efforts.

- % positive customer service experience with NDE
- % reduction in districts with declining ending fund balance
- % reduction in total number of distinct district planning processes
- % reduction in duplicate submissions or resubmissions

Priority 5: Aligned Systems

Priorities and Strategies



Strong Foundations

Pre-K
Curriculum
Early Intervention



Informed and Connected Families

Transparency
Access
Quality



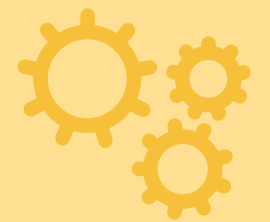
Empowering Pathways

Graduation Plans
Career Pathways
Postsecondary Success



Aligned Systems

Coherence
Streamlined Submissions
Coalitions



Equipped Educators & Leaders

Preparation
Career-Growth
Support



Role of the Nevada Department of Education



NDE, in partnership with the legislature, Governor's office, and other state agencies, has the ability to create an education ecosystem in which every student in the state thrives.

States have **levers** they can use routinely to incentivize each actor in the system to play their role to make the state's vision a reality, such as:

- Policies, Programs, and Guidance
- Funding
- School and District Accountability
- Standards, Assessments, and Credentialing
- Support and Training
- Communications

Every state action presents the opportunity to center end users and lead with coherence in order to achieve their priorities:

- 🎯 **Signal quality** intentionally, mostly through communications, policy, and guidance
- 👍 **Make the right choice the easy choice** for all actors, often through funding and regulations
- 🔊 **Clear out the noise** by inventorying what must be stopped, including mixed signals or unnecessary complexity that reduces focus on achieving the priorities.

What Comes Next?



Next Steps:

- 1. Update the Nevada Strategic Improvement Plan (STIP) to reflect the priorities, strategies, and measures - [March 31st](#)**
- 2. Align NDE Divisions & Offices and enact performance management routines - [March - June 2026](#)**
- 3. Invest in priority-aligned planning grants for up to 3 districts - [April - July 2026](#)**
- 4. Align accountability efforts: District Performance Framework ([publish August 2026](#)) followed by revisions to School Performance Framework**
- 5. Align NDE's 2027 Legislative Agenda and Biennial Budget - [Summer - Fall 2026](#)**