

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MATERIALS
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

December 4, 2024

Consent agenda, item a: Possible Approval of Private School License Renewals

Question 1: *There are a few where the dates don't line up with when we are approving. Does this mean that they are unlicensed for a week? Is there a way to have more of a lead time so that if the board didn't approve for some reason the school would have time to respond? Could we create more efficiencies with private school licenses by getting them on consistent timelines*

Response to Question 1: For those schools that are already in operation, NRS 394.251(7) provides the following: "An institution in operation when its application for a license is filed may continue operation until its application is acted upon by the Board, and thereafter its authority to operate is governed by the action of the Board."

Per NRS 394.251(6), private school license applications are due 60 days prior to their expiration and there are occasions when a school's due date is not in alignment with when an item is agendaized. However, as provided in NRS 394.251(7), private schools may continue to operate until its application is acted upon by the State Board of Education.

Consent agenda, item b: Possible Approval of Work-based Learning Biennial Report

Question 1: *Why does Clark have such a low number of partners?*

Response to Question 1:

Based on conversations with staff within the Clark County School District career and technical education (CTE) office, the district has experienced difficulties in properly vetting new and previous volunteer employers for the large number of CTE students and high schools within CCSD. Additionally, lengthy fingerprint processing times and application hurdles create delays in student participation. Age has also been cited as a barrier since employers are unable to host students under the age of 18, particularly in Health Science, Trades and Construction, and Engineering programs. This not a unique situation to Clark County since other districts have reported similar concerns and barriers.

Question 2: *I have heard from ppals that the background check requirements for these types of partnerships is still a limitation. Can you share the updates that were made*

recently to this and what the implications are for any type of work-based learning / industry partnerships?

Response to Question 2:

Assembly Bill 256 (2023) or NRS 391.1055 provides school districts and public charter schools flexibility as it relates to background checks in NRS 391.104. “If the board of trustees of a school district determines the employment of a pupil in a work-based learning program pursuant to this section is appropriate for the pupil pursuant to subsection 2, the board of trustees may exempt any volunteers employed by the business, agency or organization from the requirements of NRS 391.104 requiring a volunteer who is likely to have unsupervised contact with pupils to submit his or her fingerprints for an investigation into the criminal background of the volunteer.” Based on conversations with district work-based learning coordinators and district career and technical education (CTE) directors, many school districts are still requiring background checks for employers who want to offer work-based learning opportunities. Background checks are a significant barrier to student participation due to the cost, either to the district or the employer and the time that it takes to have a background check completed creates significant delays in student participation.

As long as school districts are required or feel that they need to complete background checks for employers and volunteers for student safety reasons, the state will continue to have these barriers to students participating in work-based learning opportunities. There are potential solutions to speed up the process that were presented to the Interim Committee on Education in June 2024, including parent waivers of background checks, a list maintained by OWINN or DPS that identifies organizations and industries that already perform background checks on employees, and providing a timeframe for how long a background check is valid.

Item 7. Public Hearing

Question 1: *Is it legal to write a specific 3rd party vendor into regulations without going through the procurement process? (Cognia seems to be the outlier in the list of approved bodies for accreditation.)*

Response to Question 1: NDE contacted the Attorney General’s office for guidance regarding this question for this regulation. Per their advice, the regulation is simply recognizing Cognia as an accreditation agency. NAC 339.680 lists a number of other accreditation agencies that may accredit correspondence courses; for private schools,

