

Nevada State Board of Education

OVERVIEW

The Nevada Department of Education consists of the State Board of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, who serves as the executive head of the Department. Together, the Nevada Department of Education (NDE or Department) and the State Board of Education (SBE or State Board) are responsible for the governance of state public education. The purpose of the Department and the State Board is to operate as a system of checks and balances in service to one another and the greater education community. This requires rigorous effort to ensure alignment and clear communications to the public regarding priorities, projects, and advocacy centering the governance of state education systems. Consisting of 11 members, the State Board has authority over the following:

Authority	Task
Regulatory Authority	Adopting Crucial Regulations Governing Public Education
Courses of Study	Prescribing Statewide Content Standards and High Quality Instructional Materials
Assessment Systems	Selecting Major Statewide Academic Assessments
Licensure Actions	Revoking or Suspending Teacher Licenses
Reports	Receiving and Disseminating Education Data
Strategic Policy	Inflection Points for Education Policy, Waivers, and Approvals

Within the framework of the Department’s priorities, the State Board has identified the five key areas through which they will focus their work.

Priorities
<p>Universal Pre-Kindergarten <i>How do we ensure that children are set up for successful learning</i></p>
<p>3rd Grade Literacy <i>How do we ensure that all students have foundational literacy skills</i></p>
<p>8th Grade Math <i>How do we ensure that students have foundational numeracy skills</i></p>
<p>Career and Technical Education Expansion <i>How do we ensure that students have access to pathways for success</i></p>
<p>Efficiency, Alignment, and Coherence <i>How do we ensure that we are coherent and aligned within the broader policy landscape</i></p>

HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

DR. KATHERINE DOCKWEILER *PRESIDENT*

TIM HUGHES
VICE PRESIDENT

DR. TRICIA BRAXTON

AMY CARVALHO

TATE ELSE

DANIELLE FORD

TAMARA HUDSON

EVANA LAN

SUSAN NEAL

ANGELA ORR

ANNETTE DAWSON OWENS

EQUIPPED EDUCATORS AND LEADERS

The Department priority **EQUIPPED EDUCATORS AND LEADERS** is to attract, support, and retain strong educators and leaders to meet evolving student needs. This includes:

- Increasing the quality and quantity of new teachers and leaders prepared to serve Nevada's students.
- Matching educator pay and growth opportunities to their role, skills, and impact.
- Equipping teachers and leaders with the tools and training they need to provide strong aligned instruction.

The State Board priorities *Universal PreK, 3rd Grade Literacy, 8th Grade Math, and Career and Technical Education (CTE) Expansion* directly align within this priority as they focus on how to align educator preparation and teacher quality to improve student outcomes and opportunities. The State Board supports this priority through their role in evaluating licensure actions, adopting high quality instructional materials, and governing the regulatory process alongside the Commission on Professional Standards in Education.

STRONG FOUNDATIONS

The Department strategic priority **STRONG FOUNDATIONS** is to ensure students start strong and build the academic foundations that deeper learning depends on. This includes:

- Expanding PreK access to high-quality seats
- Supporting educators in selecting and planning high-quality instructional materials across core subjects to strengthen Tier 1 instruction.
- Providing early academic interventions for students who need additional support.

The State Board priorities *Universal PreK, 3rd Grade Literacy, and 8th Grade Math* directly align within this priority as they seek to focus support on PreK access and standards, materials, and teaching practices that support literacy and numeracy.

The State Board is integral to this strategic priority in their role prescribing content standards and adopting high-quality instructional materials, selecting major academic assessments, and governing the regulatory process. As the Board conducts their duties and exercises their authority, items will be evaluated for their alignment, value, and support of these priorities.

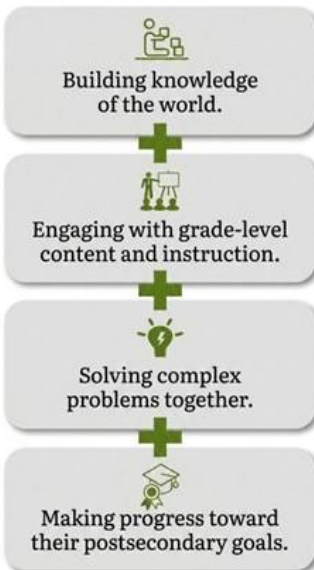
EMPOWERING PATHWAYS

The Department strategic priority **EMPOWERING PATHWAYS** is to expand access to high-quality pathways that help students develop skills, explore interests, and prepare for their future. This includes:

- Ensuring every student beginning in middle school has a yearly conversation and a clear plan for graduation and beyond
- Making it easier for students to access coursework and experiences aligned with high-wage, high-demand careers
- Ensuring every diploma is a pathway to postsecondary success.

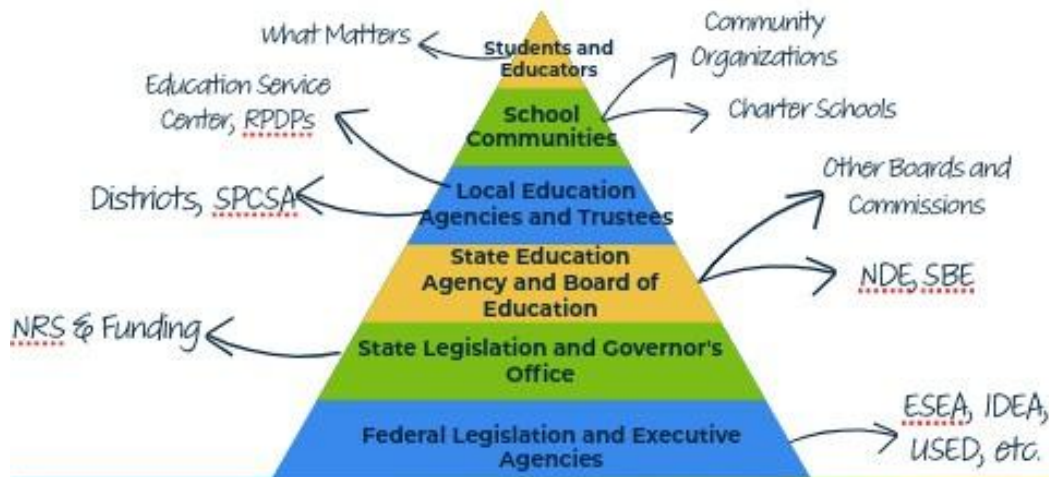
The State Board priority for *CTE Expansion* directly aligns with this priority, tapping into the State Board's core tasks by prescribing graduation requirements, content standards, and instructional materials and governing the regulatory process.

Every day, students are...



All Nevada students are equipped and feel empowered to attain their vision of success

Public Education Governance



Pyramid depicting foundations of public education governance and participation

ENGAGEMENT WITH BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

The State Board engages with a variety of other Boards, Commissions, and Councils, due to their overlapping and collaborative charges, presentation requests, regulatory processing, or through appointment of a Member of the State Board. Frequent collaborators include:

- Commission on School Funding
- Commission on Professional Standards in Education
- Teachers and Leaders Council
- Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education
- Commission on Recruitment and Retention
- Early Childhood Advisory Council
- Advisory Council on Parental Involvement
- Education Service Center
- Subcommittee on Holocaust and Other Genocides
- Financial Literacy Advisory Council
- Special Education Advisory Council

INFORMED AND CONNECTED FAMILIES

The Department strategic priority **INFORMED AND CONNECTED FAMILIES** is to enable families and communities to be active, informed partners in education. This includes:

- Providing clear, timely, and actionable information to families through Nevada's accountability frameworks.
- Ensuring families without high-quality zoned options have priority access to specialized offerings.
- Escalating supports, oversight, and options to accelerate school improvement and expand access to effective education.

The State Board priority *Efficiency, Alignment, and Coherence* aligns here as a critical element of the Board is to receive and disseminate public reporting information and serve as a public body, hearing public comment and transparently discussing the policy decision-making process.

ALIGNED SYSTEMS

The Department strategic priority **ALIGNED SYSTEMS** is to define success and align expectations, resources, and supports to accelerate progress. This includes:

- Setting a shared vision for what strong schools and districts do, and aligning NDE's funding, accountability, and support to match it.
- Streamlining district and school planning submissions, removing redundant reporting, and modernizing processes.
- Contributing NDE capabilities and target resources to aligned coalition efforts.

The State Board priority *Efficiency, Alignment, and Coherence* aligns here as the State Board works with the Department and across the Nevada Public Education Governance ecosystem to align coalition efforts, clear communications, and a shared vision for education in Nevada.

SBE LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE

The State Board created a Legislative Subcommittee with the charge to *determine engagement strategies to promote Board involvement and alignment with Board priorities across stakeholder groups*. This subcommittee first met on February 5, 2026.

The Subcommittee consists of Dr. Tricia Braxton, Chair, Danielle Ford, and Annette Dawson Owens.

The Subcommittee identified three core priorities:

- Developing a briefing document for the public and stakeholders to understand the priorities, goals, and purpose of the State Board
- Developing an analysis tool and rubric to analyze the alignment of legislation and policies with State Board priorities
- Designing an engagement strategy to advocate for public education in Nevada

This briefing document is responsive to the first priority of the Subcommittee.

BOARD ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION

EXISTING METHODS

Existing methods for engagement with the State Board include the following:

- The State Board holds two periods of public comment each meeting. The Department is currently working to broaden the reach of notices of public meetings to public education communities, partners, and stakeholders to strengthen engagement with public boards and commissions.
- Pursuant to NRS 385.040(2), each December the State Board invites broad representatives from across public education to discuss the goals and benchmarks of the Department to improve student achievement, the impact of those goals on school districts and public schools, the progress districts and schools have made in achieving the goals and benchmarks within their own improvement plans that align with State measures, and the status of any corrective actions. The State Board anticipates reviewing the structure and engagement strategies for this meeting to support robust and meaningful engagement with stakeholders.
- Intermittently, the State Board invites members of other Boards and Committees to present or join Board meetings to discuss mutually affirming policies shared or overlapping between them. The State Board also receives updates from Board Members and the Department regarding progress made by other committees on significant policy decisions. The Department is working to develop a comprehensive Education Committee Policy tracker that would support greater cross-collaboration, coordination, and updates between and across committees.

FORTHCOMING METHODS

The State Board anticipates further opportunities for engagement to result from:

- The Legislative Subcommittee plans to develop a strategy and evaluation methodology for their engagement during the Legislative and Interim Sessions, to include opportunities to provide testimony on proposed legislation in conversation with State Board priorities, present on the priorities and progress of the Board, and advocate for public education in Nevada.
- The Department is working to implement a comprehensive stakeholder engagement and communications plan. Within this plan, there will be a dedicated stakeholder engagement forum open to elected and appointed policymakers, with open invitations sent to education-related boards, commissions, and legislators. These quarterly meetings will be an opportunity to receive policy updates from the Department regarding state education policies and efforts; to provide feedback and discuss perspectives on interventions, available data, and policy levers; and elevate problems of practice for discussion and engagement.

CONTACT THE BOARD

If you would like to collaborate with the State Board regarding policy advocacy, State Board improvement and alignment efforts, or other engagement, please reach out to Amelia Thibault or Lisa Ford at NVBoardEd@doe.nv.gov.