

MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

Name of Organization: Legislative Committee on Education
(*Nevada Revised Statutes* [NRS] 218.5352)

Date and Time of Meeting: Tuesday, August 27, 2002
8:30 a.m.

Place of Meeting: Legislative Building
Room 3138
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada

If you cannot attend the meeting, you can listen to it live over the Internet. The address for the Legislative Web site is <http://www.leg.state.nv.us>. For audio broadcasts, click on the link "Listen to Meetings Live on the Internet."

A G E N D A

- I. Opening Remarks
Senator William J. Raggio, Chairman
- *II. Approval of Minutes of the Meetings Held on May 22, 2002, in Las Vegas, Nevada, and June 19, 2002, in Carson City, Nevada
- *III. Review and Approval of Policy and Procedure Concerning Recommendation of Programs for the Annual *List of Effective Remedial Programs* (NRS 218.5354)
Mindy Braun, Education Program Analyst, Legislative Bureau of Educational Accountability and Program Evaluation, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau
- *IV. Status Report on Statewide Student Achievement and Proficiency Testing Programs for Public Schools
Dr. Jack McLaughlin, State Superintendent of Public Instruction,
Nevada Department of Education
Dean Nafziger, President, Harcourt Educational Measurement,
San Antonio, Texas
- *V. Status Report on Teacher Education Programs in Nevada, Including Reports Required by Federal Law, Reading Instruction, Impact of Federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, and Related Teacher Quality Issues
Dr. William E. Sparkman, Dean, College of Education, University of Nevada,
Reno
Dr. Gene E. Hall, Dean, College of Education, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- VI. Public Testimony
- *VII. Work Session—Discussion and Action on Recommendations of the Legislative Committee on Education (NRS 218.5352) to the 72nd Session of the Nevada Legislature

The possible topics that may be covered in the Work Session include:

- Federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001
- Remedial Reading
- Value-Added Assessment System
- Regional Professional Development Programs
- Teacher Recruitment/Retention
- Administrator/Teacher Recruitment in Low-Performing Schools
- Teacher Certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
- Academic Standards for Public Schools
- Education Technology
- Pupil Recommendations
- School Transportation
- Charter Schools
- Distance Education
- Higher Education
- Class-Size Reduction/Full Day Kindergarten
- Suicide Prevention in Public Schools

*Denotes items on which the Committee may take action.

Note: We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who are disabled and wish to attend the meeting. If special arrangements for the meeting are necessary, please notify the Research Division of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, in writing, at the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada 89701-4747, or call Roxanne Duer at (775) 684-6825 as soon as possible.

Notice of this meeting was posted in the following Carson City, Nevada, locations: Blasdel Building, 209 East Musser Street; Capitol Press Corps, Basement, Capitol Building; City Hall, 201 North Carson Street; Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street; and Nevada State Library, 100 Stewart Street. Notice of this meeting was faxed for posting to the following Las Vegas, Nevada, locations: Clark County Office, 500 South Grand Central Parkway; and Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue. Notice of this meeting was posted on the Internet through the Nevada Legislature's Web site at www.leg.state.nv.us.

WORK SESSION DOCUMENT

NEVADA LEGISLATURE'S LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION (NEVADA REVISED STATUTES [NRS] 218.5351, ET SEQ.)

August 27, 2002

This document contains a summary of recommendations for bill draft requests (BDRs) or other actions that have been presented during public hearings, through communication with individual committee members, or through correspondence or communications submitted to the Legislative Committee on Education. It is intended to serve as a guide to assist Committee members in making decisions during the work session. The Committee may accept, reject, modify, or take no action on any of the proposals. Pursuant to *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 218.2429, the Committee is limited to ten legislative measures and, as amended in the 2001 Session, requires bill draft requests from statutory committees to be submitted by September 1, 2002, unless the

Legislative Commission authorizes submission of a request after that date. The approved recommendations for legislation resulting from these deliberations will be prepared as bill drafts and submitted to the 2003 Legislature. The concepts contained within this document are arranged under broad topics to allow members to review related concepts.

**RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
FEDERAL NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF 2001 AND
NEVADA'S PROGRAM OF SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY**

No Child Left Behind Act of 2001

1. Amend the statutes to provide for revisions to the accountability statutes (primarily at NRS 385.3455 et seq.), to the statewide achievement and proficiency testing system (primarily at NRS 389.015 et seq.), and to the teacher licensing provisions (NRS Chapter 391), and to add minimum requirements for the qualifications and licensing of educational paraprofessionals, and related matters, in order to comply with the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 insofar as it requires a single statewide system of school accountability; annual testing in reading or language arts and mathematics; periodic testing in science; a supporting data management system; state and district report cards; teacher quality requirements; financial accountability systems; remedial programs, sanctions, and rewards; and other matters. Details of this proposal will be approved by the Committee at its November 2002 meeting. (Senator William J. Raggio, February 13, 2002, meeting of the Legislative Committee on Education.)

Remedial Funding

2. Provide an allocation to the Nevada Department of Education from the Distributive School Account (DSA), for transfer to schools, for funding in the amount of \$5.75 million for each of the fiscal years for the 2003-05 biennium, for continued state support of remedial programs for schools needing improvement (see NRS 385.389) and other eligible schools as previously authorized in Section 14 of Senate Bill 585 (Chapter 656, *Statutes of Nevada 2001*). Note: The Council to Establish Academic Standards has proposed a merger of this remedial funding with the individual remediation funding – see Recommendation 4. (Committee BDR from previous interim.)
3. Provide an allocation to the Nevada Department of Education from the DSA, for transfer to schools, for funding in the amount of \$1 million for each of the fiscal years for the 2003-05 biennium, for continued state support of approved remedial education or tutoring programs outside the school day for pupils at any grade level who need additional instructional time to pass or reach a level considered proficient as previously authorized in Section 15 of Senate Bill 585 (2001). Programs conducted under this section must be conducted before or after school, on weekends, during summer, or between sessions in schools with year-round calendars. Note: the Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public Schools has

proposed a merger of this remedial funding with the school remediation funding – see Recommendation 4. (Committee BDR from previous interim.)

4. Direct that a letter of support be sent by the Committee to the Senate Committee on Finance and the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means recommending the continuation of funding for remedial programs for both schools and individual students at the same overall level of support as in the previous biennium (for a total of \$6.75 million per fiscal year), but permitting the Nevada Department of Education flexibility in use of the funds for either school remediation under NRS 385.389 or for programs of remedial education or tutoring for individual students who need additional instructional time to pass or reach a level considered proficient as previously authorized in Section 15 of Senate Bill 585 (2001). Further, specifically recommend that a minimum of \$1.5 million (out of the \$6.75 million) be allocated for remedial education or tutoring for individual students who need additional instructional time to pass or reach a level considered proficient. (Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public Schools, June 19, 2002, meeting of the Legislative Committee on Education.)
5. Include a statement of support in the final report of the Committee for the development of criterion-referenced tests (CRTs) for grades 4, 6, and 7 for purposes of Nevada’s school accountability system and to satisfy the requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind Act. Further, recommend that the CRTs continue to be administered in the spring and that the norm-referenced tests (NRTs) continue to be administered and used in combination with the CRTs for purposes of accountability. (Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public Schools, June 19, 2002, meeting of the Legislative Committee on Education.)

Value-Added Assessment System

6. Include a statement of support in the final report of the Committee for inclusion in the statewide testing program components needed to implement a value-added reporting system. The components may include annual test data from either local assessments or statewide tests, or both. The components may be modeled on the Tennessee value-added assessment system (TVAAS) as set forth in *Tennessee Statutes* § 49-1-601 et. seq. Further, include a statement of support for consideration of amendment of the statutes to provide that estimates of specific teacher effects are not public records (similar to *Tennessee Statutes* § 49-1-606[2]). (Dr. William L. Sanders, SASinSchool, April 24, 2002, meeting of the Legislative Committee on Education.)
7. Appropriate \$100,000 over the 2003-05 biennium from the State General Fund to the Interim Finance Committee to contract for a value-added analysis of the Achievement Level Tests (ALTs) in the Carson City and Douglas County School Districts. Analyzing the ALTs to determine the value-added by instruction in two pilot school districts will provide important information about student achievement and form the basis for a recommendation to continue and expand the value-added analysis statewide. Note: this proposal is related to Recommendation 6. (Correspondence, Ray Bacon, Nevada Manufacturers Association, July

2002.)

**RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT AND HIGH QUALITY TEACHERS**

Regional Professional Development Programs

8. Provide through an allocation from the Distributive School Account for funding in the amount of \$5,819,722 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2003-04 and \$5,927,911 for FY 2004-05, to the Nevada Department of Education for transfer to the four host school districts (Clark, Douglas, Elko, and Washoe) as follows:

RPDPs	FY 2003-2004	FY 2004-2005
Clark County School District	\$2,622,026	\$2,622,026
Washoe County School District	\$1,189,413	\$1,248,926
Douglas County School District	\$895,816	\$922,690
Elko County School District	\$1,112,467	\$1,134,269
Total RPDP Allocation	\$5,819,722	\$5,927,911

for the operation of the four Regional Professional Development Programs (RPDPs). Further, appropriate \$65,000 in each year of the biennium from the DSA to the Legislative Bureau of Educational Accountability and Program Evaluation (LBEAPE) to contract for an evaluation of the RPDPs. The RPDPs should consider combining the RPDP and NELIP operations and budget if it would be cost effective and continue to fulfill the goals and purposes of the programs while reducing overall costs. (Committee BDR from previous interim.)

Note: If the Committee does not propose an allocation for the RPDPs, the following recommendation from the Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public Schools may be considered in lieu of Recommendation 8: Direct that a letter of support be sent to the Senate Committee on Finance and the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means recommending that the Legislature continue to fund the four RPDPs at a level reflective of the needs of the program, but not less than the level of funding for the current biennium (approximately \$4.6 million in FY 2001-02 and \$5.4 million in FY 2002-03) and for the same purposes as set forth in Senate Bill 585 (2001). (Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public Schools, June 19, 2002, meeting of the Legislative Committee on Education.)

Nevada Early Literacy Intervention Program Evaluation (NELIP)

9. Provide through an allocation from the Distributive School Account, for funding in the amount of \$4,776,658 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2003-04 and \$4,867,648 for FY 2004-05, to the Nevada Department of Education for transfer to the four host school districts (Clark [or

Lincoln], Douglas, Elko, and Washoe) as follows:

NELIP	FY 2003-2004	FY 2004-2005
Clark County School District	\$2,889,475	\$2,889,475
Washoe County School District	\$1,058,667	\$1,111,605
Douglas County School District	\$358,248	\$368,995
Elko County School District	\$470,268	\$497,573
Total NELIP Allocation	\$4,776,658	\$4,867,648

for the continuation of the NELIP as authorized in Sections 12 and 13 of S.B. 585 (2001). Further, appropriate \$65,000 in each year of the biennium from the DSA to the Legislative Bureau of Educational Accountability and Program Evaluation (LBEAPE) to contract for an evaluation of the NELIP. The RPDPs should consider whether combining the RPDP and NELIP operations and budget if it would be cost effective and continue to fulfill the goals and purposes of the programs while reducing overall costs. (Continuation of existing program.)

10. Provide the RPDPs with authorization to enter into statewide partnerships and to allocate a portion of their budgets for the purpose of providing matching funds to permit the receipt of grant funds from state, federal or other sources. According to John Mundy, Chair of the Nevada Council on Economic Education, grant funds will be available to the states under the No Child Left Behind Act, Title IV, Part D, Subpart 13, to support certain professional development. (Personal communication, John Mundy, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, July 2002.)
11. Amend the statutes (primarily at NRS 391.516) to provide for the compensation of Statewide Coordinating Council members for travel and per diem expenses provided to state officers and employees generally for attendance at Statewide Coordinating Council meetings and while otherwise engaged in the work of the Statewide Coordinating Council. The expenses will be paid from the budgets of the respective RPDPs. (Communication from Statewide Coordinating Council for RPDPs, September 2001.)
12. Provide, **EITHER** through a:
 - a. General fund appropriation; or
 - b. Allocation from the DSA

funds in the amount of \$8.64 million for the 2003-05 biennium to restructure the teacher profession in Nevada public schools in accordance with the following table:

Knowledge-Based and Skills-Based Pay			
PROBATIONARY	POST PROBATIONARY GENERALIST	POST PROBATIONARY MENTOR	POST PROBATIONARY MASTER

MINIMUM DEGREE	Bachelor	Bachelor	Masters	Masters in Content Area
MINIMUM LICENSURE REQUIREMENT	Provisional	Clear	Clear	Clear
SALARY	Current Salary Schedule	Current Salary Schedule	Up to 1.5 X Current Salary	Up to 2 X Current Salary
MINIMUM REQUIREMENT TEACHING LONGEVITY	0 Years	1 Year	4 Years	6 Years Includes 2 Years as Post Probationary Mentor
CERTIFICATION OF SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE	District Evaluation	District Evaluation	District Evaluation, *NBPTS or **ETS Pathwise at min. 60% Proficient 40% Distinguished Mentor NBPTS or ETS Pathwise Candidates	District Evaluation, NBPTS or ETS Pathwise at 100% Distinguished Mentor NBPTS or ETS Pathwise Candidates
SERVICE REQUIREMENTS			Demonstration Classroom	Demonstration Classroom NBPTS Master Teacher must be a Certified Trainer of NBPTS Assessors or a Certified ETS Evaluator Master Teacher may certify to be part of the Assessment Team

NBPTS = National Board of Professional Teaching Standards

ETS = Educational Testing Service

The proposal calls for the Commission on Professional Standards in Education to prescribe the objective qualifications and experience for classifying mentor and master teachers, as noted in the chart. School districts would be required to pay an augmented salary, also noted in the chart, subject to the positions for such teachers made available at each school. Additional duties would include providing demonstration classrooms for newly hired teachers, training for candidates for certification by the NBPTS, and other duties specified by local committees on professional standards (as established in each district). The program would be phased in over several years, with numbers of mentor and master teachers as noted in the cost chart.

ESTIMATED COSTS					
School Year	Number of Mentors	Mentor Costs	Number of Masters	Master Costs	Total Cost
2002-03	0		Training and Transition Year		
2003-04	90	\$2.88 Million	0	0	\$2.88 Million
2004-05	180	\$5.76 Million	0	0	\$5.76 Million
2005-06	270	\$8.65 Million	90	\$5.76 Million	\$14.41 Million
2006-07	495	\$15.86 Million	135	\$8.65 Million	\$24.51 Million

(Senator Raymond D. Rawson, at the May 22, 2002, meeting of the Legislative Committee

on Education)

Teacher Recruitment/Retention

13. Amend the statutes, primarily at NRS 391.160, to require the boards of trustees of school districts to pay for a 5 percent salary increase for a secondary teacher who teaches mathematics or science and has an endorsement in the fields of mathematics or science, and for a teacher who is assigned to teach pupils with disabilities and who has an endorsement in that field. Also, require the State Board of Education to identify the endorsements in the fields of mathematics and science that qualify for the salary increase. Further, make the amendment effective on July 1, 2004. (Senator William J. Raggio, February 13, 2002, meeting of the Legislative Committee on Education.)

Administrator/Teacher Recruitment In Low-Performing Schools

14. Amend the statutes to permit school districts to apply on behalf of low-performing schools for status as a state experimental school. Upon approval of the experimental status by the Nevada Department of Education, the school district, in consultation with the Department, shall appoint a new administrator to the school. The new administrator shall work at the pleasure of the school district with a job performance review linked to student achievement gains. The new administrator shall recruit teachers and other faculty to the school. The administrators, teachers, and instructional staff shall be paid a state-funded bonus for each school year as follows, subject to availability of legislative appropriations:

	First Year	Second Year	Third Year
Administrator	\$6,000	\$8,000	\$10,000
Licensed Teachers	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$5,000
Other Instructional Staff	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$3,000

Based on four schools being designated as experimental schools in FY 2003-04, the projected cost would be approximately \$705,000, increasing to \$943,000 in FY 2004-05. The school's experimental status would be evaluated annually by the Department and experimental status shall not exceed five years. Priority status shall be given to experimental schools with regard to provision of district services and provisional flexibility in curricula. The Department shall evaluate the effectiveness of the experimental school and submit a report annually to interested entities. (Correspondence, July 2002.)

15. Amend the statutes to direct the Commission on Professional Standards to adopt regulations providing for alternative routes to a teacher's license for qualified persons with a bachelor degree or higher in a subject area. The intent of the alternative certification procedure is to encourage qualified retired persons or persons desiring a career change to enter the teaching profession. Components of the alternative certification would include six to eight weeks of an intensive training seminar covering pedagogy, classroom management and related

subjects, mentoring during the first year of teaching, and a short training seminar after the first year of teaching as follow-up. The alternative certification program would still require licensing applicants to pass the examinations currently required of teachers. Based on information from the Teach for America program, teachers licensed through such programs have strong content knowledge and have a high retention rate. (Communication, Ray Bacon, Nevada Manufacturers Association, August 2002.)

Teacher Certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards

16. Appropriate \$207,000 over the biennium to the State Department of Education for the purpose of reimbursing up to \$2,300 of the related costs incurred by a teacher in gaining national certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Teachers wishing to obtain such reimbursement must file a statement of intent with the school district at least one year prior to anticipated certification; upon completion and certification, the school district shall notice the Department to reimburse the teacher up to \$2,300 of the costs directly related to applying for and receiving National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification. (Committee BDR from previous interim.)
17. Provide, **EITHER** through a:
- a. General fund appropriation; or
 - b. An allocation from the Distributive School Account

funding in the amount of \$1.25 million for FY 2003-04 and \$1.25 million for FY 2004-05 to the Clark County School District and the Washoe County School District, for the purchase of test score reporting brochures and related services for the statewide norm-referenced tests in 4th and 7th grades and the criterion-referenced tests in 3rd and 5th grades, in the Clark County School District and Washoe County School District. [Note: this may need to be changed depending upon revisions to the statewide proficiency testing schedule]. (Grow Network, March 20, 2002, meeting of the Legislative Committee on Education.)

**RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING ACADEMIC
STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

18. Provide, **EITHER** through a:
- a. General fund appropriation; or
 - b. An allocation from the Distributive School Account

funding for the Nevada Department of Education in an amount to be determined to support a contract position for a public information officer at the Nevada Department of Education for use by the Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public Schools, the State Board of Education, and the Nevada Department of Education, to address state level education issues

with a primary focus on academic standards and student assessment issues. Responsibilities would also include statewide communications development of parental involvement issues (in English and Spanish versions) as well as oversight of the public education information provided on the Nevada Department of Education's Web site. The contracted position would be reviewed after the 2003-05 biennium and continued funding, if any, would be based on a demonstration of positive impacts of the work during the biennium. Finally, the position would be subject to a sunset provision after four years of funding, ending in 2007. The Nevada Department of Education estimates the cost of such a consultant position would range from \$62,253 to \$81,719 per year (includes salary, benefits, and overhead). (Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public Schools, June 19, 2002, meeting of the Legislative Committee on Education.)

19. Direct a letter of support be sent to the Senate Committee on Finance and the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means recommending that funding in the amount of \$20,000 per year be allocated within the budget for the Legislative Committee on Education, for the use of the Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public Schools in establishing and supporting teams to review and revise, as needed, the academic standards initially developed in 1998, with the understanding that the first subject area to be reviewed will be the science standards and that the other standards will be reviewed consistent with the textbook adoption cycle. The allocated funds would be used for travel, per diem, and other costs of the teams established for the review and revision of one subject area per fiscal year. In addition, the letter would recommend continuation of current levels of funding for the operating budget of the Council within the budget of the Nevada Department of Education. (Council to Establish Academic Standards in Public Schools, June 19, 2002, meeting of the Legislative Committee on Education.)
20. Amend the statutes (primarily at NRS 389.510) to provide that the term of a member of the Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public Schools continues until a new appointment is made by the appointing authority. This modification will permit the continuation of the Council's activities without interruption due to delays in the appointment process. The Commission on Educational Technology has made a similar request. (Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public Schools, June 19, 2002, meeting of the Legislative Committee on Education.)
21. Include a statement in the final report of the Committee urging the superintendents of the school districts to review their district priorities in curricula to ensure that the districts' efforts are properly focused on the most critical subject areas in order to promote student achievement, and to provide the Legislative Committee on Education in 2004 with a list of the mandates and programs that the districts cannot reasonably accomplish due to funding or time constraints. (Correspondence, Ray Bacon, Nevada Manufacturers Association, July 2002.)

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

22. Amend the statutes, primarily at NRS 388.790, to provide that the term of each member of the Commission on Educational Technology is two years, commencing on January 1 of the year they are appointed and expiring on December 31 of the next calendar year. Five of the members shall be appointed in even numbered years and six of the members shall be appointed in odd numbered years. A member shall continue in his office until a successor is appointed. The Commission believes that switching to calendar years may facilitate more timely appointments and continuity of membership to implement statute requirements after the legislative session. Most commissions have staggered terms. (Correspondence, Commission on Educational Technology, May 6, 2002.)
23. Provide an appropriation of \$35 million from the State General Fund for educational technology to be distributed to the schools through subgrants by the Commission on Educational Technology as follows:
- \$10 million for the basic items described in S.B. 427 (Chapter 574, *Statutes of Nevada 2001*) to continue this funding through the next biennium.
 - \$7 million for fundamental technology equipment and software which were not covered by the S.B. 427 amounts, but whose need was evident from the S.B. 427 applications.
 - \$17.4 million for professional development focused on the use of educational technology within the districts.
 - \$600,000 for development of the long-term evaluation component.
- Further, include within the DSA, to be distributed by the Commission, an additional \$2 million to cover software licensing fees for school districts and schools. (Correspondence, Commission on Educational Technology, July 2002.)
24. Send a letter of support to the Clark County School District for the purchase of laptop computers for disadvantaged students to use at home, on a temporary basis, during the school year. Further, include a statement of support in the final report of the Committee encouraging funding for educational technology. (Mathew McMurray, teacher, March 20, 2002, meeting of the Legislative Committee on Education.)
25. Include a statement of support in the final report of the Committee for the implementation of a statewide initiative to provide broadband connections for all schools and school districts, as well as the higher education community similar to the statewide systems in place in Iowa, South Dakota, and Utah. (Correspondence, Sally Devlin, July 2002.)

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING PUPILS

26. Amend the statutes, primarily at NRS 392.033 and 392.125, to clarify that the prohibition on

retaining a pupil more than one time in the same grade does not apply to retention of pupils in the 8th grade who fail to meet the credit requirement for promotion to high school. This amendment is consistent with an opinion letter of the Nevada Attorney General. (Committee discussion, April 24, 2002, meeting of the Legislative Committee on Education.)

27. Send a letter to the Clark County School District encouraging the district to pursue the creation of a school for homeless children similar to the Thomas J. Pappas School in Phoenix, Arizona. (Assemblyman Mark A. Manendo, February 13, 2002, meeting of the Legislative Committee on Education.)
28. Amend the statutes to authorize school districts to provide access to community college courses and to offer independent study for exceptionally gifted students. Access to community college courses would include the arrangement of enrollment; reimbursement by the district to the community college for appropriate costs; and provision of appropriate instructional materials, supplies, and equipment. School districts would be directed to adopt policies for implementation of such access for exceptionally gifted students. This proposal is based on Assembly Bill 2626 from the 2001-02 regular session in California. (Communication, Ray Bacon, Nevada Manufacturers Association, August 2002.)
29. Amend the statutes (primarily at NRS 392.040) to permit early admission to kindergarten or first grade for students within six months of the pertinent age cut-off, upon the request of a parent or guardian, based upon an assessment by the school district of the student's readiness for school. (Correspondence from Heidi Rose, April 23, 2002.)

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

30. Amend the statutes relating to school transportation as follows:
 - a. To provide an exception for physically disabled students from participation in practice drills for emergency evacuations, as defined by regulation of the State Board, and also require the State Board of Education to provide for alternative safety procedures for such students, by regulation (primarily at NRS 392.375).
 - b. To delete "or a bus used for extracurricular activities"; to increase the required training hours from 10 to 20 hours for both operating a vehicle and in the specified subjects; to add CPR and student management to the required training subjects; and to delete the provision permitting student drivers (primarily at NRS 392.380).
 - c. To delete the exemption for vehicles used for extracurricular activities, thereby disallowing the use of 15 passenger vans (primarily at NRS 392.400).
 - d. To provide exceptions to the requirement for flashing red lights, as defined by

regulation of the State Board, for buses transporting students with special needs who are individually loaded and unloaded. Also delete the “to or from school” limitation so that the flashing red light system is activated at all times the bus is transporting students (primarily at NRS 392.410).

- e. To increase the maximum speed limit for buses from 55 to 65 miles per hour (primarily at NRS 484.365).
- f. To require that trainers of school bus drivers be qualified as set forth in regulation by the State Board of Education (primarily at NRS 392.380).
- g. To clarify that charter schools must comply with the school transportation statutes and regulations when transporting charter school students (primarily in Chapter 386).

(Nevada Department of Education and school district transportation directors, June 19, 2002, meeting of the Legislative Committee on Education.)

RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING CHARTER SCHOOLS

- 31. Amend the statutes (primarily at NRS 387.124) to provide that the Nevada Department of Education shall make up the difference from the DSA between the statewide average per-pupil payment and the district per-pupil payment, for state-sponsored charter schools. (Correspondence from Clark and Washoe County School Districts, July 2002).
- 32. Amend the statutes, primarily at NRS 391.033 and in Chapter 386, to require nonlicensed employees at charter schools to be fingerprinted and subject to background checks prior to employment. Further, with regard to hiring a teacher or administrator with a felony conviction, allow the governing body to make an offer of employment if the conviction is unrelated to employment position (similar to NRS 391.033[5][b][2]). (Correspondence, Washoe County School District, July 2002.)
- 33. Amend the statutes, primarily at NRS 385.368 and 389.632, to require charter schools to pay for retesting of their students in the event of a failure to test a sufficient percentage of students or in the event of a testing irregularity. (Correspondence, Clark County and Washoe County School Districts, July 2002.)

RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING DISTANCE EDUCATION

- 34. Amend the statutes, primarily at NRS 388.866, to revise the licensure requirements related to distance education courses for public schools to permit university or college personnel to

teach distance education courses in the core academic subjects. (Committee members, January 9, 2002, meeting of the Legislative Committee on Education.)

35. Amend the distance education statutes, primarily at NRS 388.838, to permit a committee to form a charter school to file an application for approval of a distance education program. (Communication to staff, December 2001.)
36. Amend the statutes, primarily at NRS 388.854 and 388.858, to revise the September 1 and January 1 deadlines for filing written agreements regarding the enrollment of pupils in programs of distance education to October 1 and February 1, respectively. (Committee members, January 9, 2002, meeting of the Legislative Committee on Education.)

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**RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING MISCELLANEOUS
MATTERS RELATED TO EDUCATION**

Higher Education

37. Send a letter from the Committee to the Board of Regents requesting their review of the scope of the costs of education and the expenditures of scholarship funds by recipients of a Millennium Scholarship (Committee members, March 20, 2002, meeting of the Legislative Committee on Education.)
38. Include a statement in the final report of the Committee noting that there are issues that were not adequately addressed during the 2001-02 interim due to a lack of sufficient time and the imperatives of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Although not addressed by the Committee during this interim, the Committee intends to make these two issues a high priority in the 2003-04 interim. Those two issues are: (1) the creation of smaller high schools to address drop-out rates and to improve student achievement; and (2) the effective implementation of a P-16 effort to reduce the gap between high school and postsecondary education, including the reduction of remediation at the college level, facilitating progression to postsecondary study, and improvements in workforce preparation. (Correspondence, Ray Bacon, Nevada Manufacturers Association, July 2002.)

Class-Size Reduction/Full Day Kindergarten

39. Include within the appropriation bill for the class-size reduction funds, provisions that allow school districts the additional option to use their class-size reduction funds for one of the following:
 - a. To implement class-size reduction in kindergarten through grade 6 by permitting student-to-teacher ratios of up to 25 students per teacher; OR
 - b. To implement full-day kindergarten. Implementation of full-day kindergarten for all

students is the ultimate goal, but would be phased in by providing full-day kindergarten in the first year for the students eligible for free lunches; in the second year the full-day program would be extended to include students eligible for reduced lunches; and, during the 2005 Legislative Session, the full-day program would be evaluated to determine its impact and to consider its continuation and extension to all kindergartners.

Note: This bill draft request would be subject to further study prior to introduction of the bill. Analyses of the fiscal and facilities impact of this proposal would be required from each school district. (Correspondence, Ray Bacon, Nevada Manufacturers Association, July 2002.)

Suicide Prevention in Public Schools

40. Amend the statutes to require all public school teachers, including elementary education teachers, to complete courses in the prevention of suicide prior to license renewal. Such legislation could also require that Nevada's Regional Professional Development Programs provide training specific to suicide issues to teachers and administrators. (Correspondence, Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to Study Suicide Prevention, March 22, 2002.)
41. Appropriate state funds to provide additional counseling positions for public middle schools and high schools, and state funds for counselors at the elementary school level. (Correspondence, Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to Study Suicide Prevention, May 24, 2002.)