

English Mastery Council (EMC) Annual Status Report

February 2, 2017 to February 2, 2018

Background

During the 2013 legislative session, the Nevada State Legislature enacted Senate Bill 504 (SB 504) to address the linguistic and academic needs of English Learners in Nevada’s public schools. As part of SB 504, as enacted, Nevada created the English Mastery Council (EMC) [NRS 388.409] which was directed to provide recommendations to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the State Board of Education (SBE), Commission on Professional Standards (COPS), Board of Regents, and school districts [NRS 388.411].

The Council was also directed to provide an annual report to the Governor, State Board, and the Director of the Legislative Committee on Education (LCE) concerning the status of the Council in carrying out its duties and a description of the recommendations made by the Council to the entities identified in paragraph one [NRS 388.413]. This report satisfies those requirements.

Organization of the EMC/Membership

As outlined in NRS 388.409, the EMC is made up of sixteen members from differing backgrounds and responsibilities. Individuals are nominated by statutorily defined representative organizations and are appointed by the Governor, the Chancellor of the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE), or the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Each appointed member serves a 2-year term and may be appointed for additional terms.

English Mastery Council Membership – By Representative Group:

| Appointments | Term Expires |
|--|--------------------|
| State Superintendent of Public Instruction or Designee (ex-officio member) Brett Barley, Deputy Super Superintendent – Nevada Department of Education | 12/31/18 |
| General Public (Appointed by the Governor) Duncan Lee - Las Vegas (<i>Reappointment</i>) Nancy Brune - Las Vegas (<i>Reappointment</i>) | 6/30/18 6/30/18 |
| Parent/Guardian (Appointed by Governor) Melissa Esparza – Las Vegas (<i>Reappointment</i>) <i>Vacant Position</i> | 6/30/17 |
| Nevada System of Higher Education (Appointed by the Chancellor - NSHE) Fares Karam – University of Nevada-Reno (<i>Reappointment</i>) Sharolyn Durodola – University of Nevada-Las Vegas (<i>Reappointment</i>) | 6/30/19 6/30/19 |
| Public Policy Expertise (Appointed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction) Lori Navarrete (<i>New Appointment</i>) Lynn Manning-John (<i>Reappointment</i>) | 6/30/19 7/14/17 |

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|--|--------------------------|---------|
| Public School Teachers (Appointed by the Governor) | | |
| Margaret Maija Talso - Washoe County School District | <i>(Reappointment)</i> | 6/30/19 |
| Diana Cantu – Clark County School District | <i>(New Appointment)</i> | 6/30/19 |
| School Level Administrators (Appointed by the Governor) | | |
| Barbara Harris - Lyon County School District | <i>(New Appointment)</i> | 6/30/19 |
| Gladis Diaz - Washoe County School District | <i>(New Appointment)</i> | 6/30/19 |
| District Level Administrators (Appointed by the Governor) | | |
| Lorna James-Cervantes - Clark County School District | <i>(Reappointment)</i> | 6/30/19 |
| Paula Zona – Carson City School District | <i>(New Appointment)</i> | 6/30/19 |
| School District Board of Trustees (Appointed by the Governor) | | |
| Laurel Crossman – Carson City School District | <i>(New Appointment)</i> | 6/30/19 |

Note: There is currently one vacancy on the English Mastery Council.

Calendar of EMC Meetings

3/9/17 Standards and Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting
3/3/17 EMC meeting (Canceled: Lack of quorum)
4/6/17 TESL subcommittee meeting
4/18/17 District Policy and Criteria Planning Subcommittee Meeting
4/20/17 Full English Mastery Council Meeting
5/11/17 TESL Subcommittee Meeting
5/17/17 District Policy and Criteria Planning Subcommittee Meeting
5/18/17 Full English Mastery Council Meeting
5/26/17 Standards and Curriculum Subcommittee
9/13/17 Full English Mastery Council Meeting
10/2/17 Full English Mastery Council Meeting
10/4/17 TESL Subcommittee meeting
11/1/17 Full English Mastery Council Meeting

Duties of the English Mastery Council

The primary responsibility of the EMC is to provide recommendations that will help ensure that English Learners in Nevada’s public schools (Pre-Kindergarten through grade 12) have access to quality education programs. [NRS 388.405](#) states, *“It is the intent of the Legislature that children who are limited English proficient be provided with services and instruction which is designed to address the academic needs of such children so that those children attain proficiency in the English language and improve their overall academic and linguistic achievement and proficiency.”*

The following tables outline the specific responsibilities of the EMC and provide a progress report for each from February 2, 2017 to February 1, 2018:

1. Make recommendations to the State Board of Education for the adoption of regulations concerning criteria for the policies to teach English to pupils who are limited English proficient (LEP) ([NRS 388.411\(1\)](#))

| EMC Action: | Response: | Steps Taken: | Support Documentation: |
|--------------------|------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| None. | None. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recommendations have been approved and submitted to the State Board of Education. | None. |

2. Review policy to teach English to pupils who are limited English proficient (LEP) developed by board of trustees of each school pursuant to criteria adopted by the State Board of Education under ([NRS 388.411\(2\)](#)).

| EMC Action: | Response: | Steps Taken: | Support Documentation: |
|--|------------------|--|---|
| <p>1) Motion for additional EMC members to join the District Policy and Criteria Planning subcommittee; and</p> <p>2) Motion that the District Policy and Criteria Planning subcommittee make a recommendation to the EMC to seek opportunities to have EMC members or NDE support members present guidance to districts and superintendents on district policy criterion for ELs at a future conference of the Nevada Association of School Board (NASB).</p> | Motion carried. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3/7/17: Training session held to develop district policy evaluation process. ▪ 4/18/17: District Policy and Criteria Planning Subcommittee elected a chair: Laurel Crossman. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Additional training session held to train subcommittee members on how to review the district policies and plans. ❖ DP&CP sub reviewed Policies: Washoe, Churchill, Carson City, Pershing, and Lander. Additional districts assigned to be reviewed. Eureka, Lincoln, Mineral, Esmeralda, Charter and White Pine. ▪ 5/17/17: Discussion and review of district policies: Elko, Esmeralda, Lincoln, and Eureka. Each district needed improvement. ▪ 5/18/17: At Full EMC – District Policy and Criteria Planning Subcommittee reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All 17 districts reviewed and evaluated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 4 districts in compliance: Clark, Washoe, White Pine, and Carson City. ❖ 13 districts in process of revision: Churchill, Douglas, Elko, Esmeralda, Charter, Lander, Lincoln, Storey, Eureka, Nye, Pershing, Humboldt, and Lyon. ▪ 11/16/17: TESL Subcommittee Chair and NDE joint presentation to Nevada Association of School Board (NASB) annual conference regarding District EL Policy procedure, evaluation and updates. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District English Learner Policy Criteria Recommendation (A); • English Learner District Policy Submission Form (B); • Nevada ELD Program Models of Instruction (C) ; and • District Policy NASB Presentation 11.16.17 (D). |

3. Make recommendations to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Commission on Professional Standards in Education and the State Board of Education for:

- a. The adoption of regulations pursuant to NRS 391.019 concerning the requirement for an endorsement to teach English as a second language, including, without limitation, the teachers who should be required to obtain the endorsement (NRS 388.411(3)(a)).
- b. After the adoption of the regulations pursuant to paragraph (a), any revisions to those regulations as deemed necessary by the Council (NRS 388.411(3)(b)).

| EMC Action: | Response: | Steps Taken: | Support Documentation: |
|---|------------------|---|---|
| <p>1) Motion that the EMC support the concept of a conference focused on the alignment of ELAD coursework with potential financial support to be determined in the next fiscal year; and</p> <p>2) Motion that the TESL Subcommittee and NDE develop an ELAD FAQ sheet to clarify aspects of the ELAD endorsement implementation and that it be made available to the public.</p> | Motion carried. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 5/11/17: Discussion regarding adoption of R140-15 (June 28, 2016 adoption): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Term TESL was changed to ELAD. ❖ Course title was changed. ❖ 25-hour practicum requirement was added. ❖ An ELAD Specialist Endorsement was established. ❖ DOE suggested adding an ELAD FAQ specifically related to the ELAD and TESL Endorsement transition. ▪ 5/18/17: Discussion related to the development of the criteria, professional development and content related to the ELAD Endorsement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Discussion that NDE will develop an ELAD FAQ sheet for online and public use. ▪ 9/13/17: Discussion of holding a conference that focuses on building capacity in Nevada to support ELAD Endorsement. Decided a webinar would be more feasible. ▪ 10/4/17: TESL Subcommittee - Discussion of ELAD FAQ webinar to be held in winter or spring. Logistics developed for the webinar. ▪ 2/2/17: ELAD FAQ Webinar held in Las Vegas with NDE and TESL subcommittee members. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R140-15 (E); • ELAD FAQ sheet (F); • ELAD FAQ Presentation (G). |

4. Develop standards and criteria for a curriculum for pupils who are limited English proficient (LEP) and submit to the State Board of Education (NRS 388.411(4)).

| EMC Action: | Response: | Steps Taken: | Support Documentation: |
|--|------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| <p>1) Motion to create a leadership team with NDE taking the lead on the facilitation of project to create the ELD standards framework for the State of Nevada; and</p> <p>2) Motion for EMC to approve the use of an expert facilitator</p> | Motion carried. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3/9/17: Standards and Curriculum Subcommittee elected a chair: Maija Talso. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Discussion of Standards and Curriculum sub using WIDA Standards. Discussion of the state developing the ELD standards framework. ❖ Work group organized by NDE. Development of the ELD standards framework for the EMC to approve | None. |

| EMC Action: | Response: | Steps Taken: | Support Documentation: |
|--|------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| in coordinating and leading the ELD standards framework work group team. | | <p>at a future meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Members of the Standards and Curriculum Subcommittee participated ELD standards framework work group on the following dates: 8/4/17, 11/2-3/17, 12/7-8/17, 1/18-19/18. | |

5. Review any course of study offered by the Nevada System of Higher Education for training to teach English as a second language to determine if the course of study, including, without limitation, student teaching, is sufficiently rigorous to provide teachers with the tools necessary to improve the English proficiency and academic achievement and proficiency of pupils who are limited English proficient (LEP)(388.411(5)).

| EMC Action: | Response: | Steps Taken: | Support Documentation: |
|--|------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| <p>1) Motion for a conference to be held that will focus on standards and learning related to the ELAD Endorsement presented at next full EMC meeting. Seconded;</p> <p>2) Motion to construct a letter to invite the Southern TESL Nevada chapter to an EMC meeting;</p> <p>3) Motion for the TESL subcommittee to make a recommendation to the EMC that the credit requirement for renewal be aligned closely to the ELAD endorsement requirements; and</p> <p>4) Motion that the TESL subcommittee work with other institutions and groups to propose criteria for approval of continuing education credits for standard licensure renewal.</p> | Motion carried. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 4/6/17: Research conducted and reported by TESL subcommittee members. Discussion held to determine if a revival of the Nevada chapter of TESOL is of interest. Affiliate in charge of Nevada chapter is CATESOL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ TESL member to contact CATESOL. ❖ Construction of a letter inviting the southern Nevada TESOL chapter to attend an EMC meeting. ❖ Subcommittee will bring to the Full EMC the idea for a conference for higher education or provides of professional learning around EL to ensure professional learning and course are set up to affect classroom practice. ❖ Discussion of the creation and planning of a TESL conference in Nevada as interested and expressed by Faculty of the Nevada System of Higher Education. ▪ 5/11/17: CATESOL representative attended TESL Subcommittee. Reported: A membership of 25 required and commitment to hold 2 events a year needed to reinstate northern chapter of TESL in Nevada. | None. |

6. Make recommendations to the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada for the improvement of any course of study in subsection 5 and submit a copy of those recommendations to the Governor and the State Board of Education ([NRS 388.411\(6\)](#)).

| EMC Action: | Response: | Steps Taken: | Support Documentation: |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| See number 5. | See number 5. | See number 5. | None. |

Conclusion

The EMC, in fulfilling its statutory requirements, has completed or is in the process of making recommendations to improve the quality of services for English Learners in Nevada. Several of the duties outlined in this report will be ongoing once policies are in place.

[NRS 388.413](#) states that the EMC will remain effective through June 30, 2019. If the EMC continues to be a formal advisory group to public education and higher education in Nevada, the governor, chancellor of higher education, and the superintendent of public instruction will need to reappoint or appoint new members for those positions whose terms expire June 30, 2019.