NRS 391.028 – Annual report concerning status of Commission’s regulations and work plan.
MISSION AND FACTS

Mission Statement:
The mission of the Commission on Professional Standards in Education is to create rigorous regulations governing the licensing of educational personnel in the State of Nevada, with the overall goal of fostering professionalism among educators and facilitating a quality education for all students.

Facts about the Commission:
The Commission on Professional Standards in Education is the only regulatory body charged with developing licensure standards for educational personnel. Its membership makeup reflects key areas within the educational profession. Licensure regulations are developed based on accepted standards for professional staff in schools, as well as the needs of Nevada’s students. The Commission also establishes regulations governing competency and subject matter examinations for teachers and other licensed educational personnel. The Commission takes great care in its decisions to ensure that Nevada’s educators are both highly qualified and highly effective when teaching Nevada’s students.

Authority: The Commission was created by the 1987 Legislature. (NRS 391.011)

Membership: The nine Commission members are appointed by the Governor. Pursuant to NRS 391.011, the membership makeup is as follows:

- Four members of the Commission must be educators who teach in Nevada schools:
  (a) One who teaches in a secondary school;
  (b) One who teaches in a middle school or junior high school;
  (c) One who teaches in an elementary school;
  (d) One who teaches special education.

- The remaining members of the Commission must include:
  (a) One counselor or psychologist employed by a school district;
  (b) Two administrators of schools, at least one of whom must be a principal of a school;
  (c) The dean of the College of Education at one of the universities in the Nevada System of Higher Education, or a representative of one of the Colleges of Education nominated by such a dean for appointment by the Governor;
  (d) One member who is a representative of the general public.

The appointments of a counselor, the administrators, and three of the four teachers must be made from a list of names of at least three persons for each position that is submitted to the Governor:

- For the counselor and teachers, by an employee organization representing the majority of counselors and the majority of teachers in the State of Nevada who teach at the educational level from which the appointment is being made.
- For administrators, by an organization of administrators for schools in which the majority of administrators of schools in the State of Nevada have membership.

One member of the Commission who is a teacher, administrator, counselor or psychologist must be employed by a private school licensed pursuant to chapter 394 of NRS.
Membership Terms: No member of the Commission who is a teacher, counselor, administrator or representative of the general public may serve more than two terms. (NRS 391.013)

Officers: The Commission shall elect one of its members as President, to serve at the pleasure of the Commission. The Superintendent of Public Instruction or the Superintendent’s designee shall serve as the nonvoting Secretary to the Commission, and shall coordinate the activities of the Commission. (NRS 391.015)

Meetings: The Commission may meet at least once each month. A majority of the Commission members constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business. While attending meetings of the Commission, the members are entitled to the travel expenses and subsistence allowances provided by law for state officers and employees. (NRS 391.017)

Support: The Nevada Department of Education provides the necessary personnel and administrative support to allow the Commission to carry out its duties. (NRS 391.029)

General Duties: Pursuant to NRS 391.019, the Commission shall:

- Adopt regulations prescribing the qualifications for licensing teachers and other educational personnel, and the procedures for the issuance and renewal of those licenses.
- Identify fields of specialization in teaching which require the specialized training of educators.
- Adopt regulations requiring educators to obtain an endorsement in each field of specialization in which they wish to teach, and set forth the requirements necessary to obtain an endorsement in each field of specialization.
- Adopt regulations prescribing coursework on parental involvement and family engagement.
- Adopt regulations governing required examinations for initial licensure.
- Adopt other regulations it deems necessary for its own government or to carry out its duties.
1. The Commission will be responsive to statutory changes required as a result of the 2017 Legislative session and create, revise and amend NAC 391 accordingly.

2. The Commission will continue to review existing NAC 391 regulations to make necessary revisions in response national best practices, changing educator workforce trends, and other needs/requests from education stakeholders and other members of the community.

3. (a) The Commission will review and approve qualified Alternative Route to Licensure provider programs pursuant to NAC 391.461  
     (b) The Commission will review the evaluations of approved Alternative Route to Licensure providers pursuant to NAC 391.461 and NRS 391.039

4. The Commission will review existing and proposed competency testing models pursuant to NAC 391.036 for continued acceptance or new adoption.

5. The Commission will engage a variety of stakeholders in discussions regarding licensure requirements to ensure Nevada’s licensure regulations are consistent and relevant.
LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS REQUIRED OF THE COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION
2015-2016

- Senate Bill 504, passed by the 2013 Nevada Legislature, required the creation of a statewide English Mastery Council (EMC) to improve the quality of English Language Learner (ELL) education in Nevada. One of the EMC’s three primary areas of work included the formation of a Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) Task Force to address educator qualifications and preparedness for working with ELLs. In addition to reviewing and making recommendations regarding university courses of study in this area, the EMC was tasked with making recommendations for the adoption of regulations concerning the requirements for a TESL endorsement and submitting those recommendations to the Commission on Professional Standards in Education.
  - Recommendations were heard by the Commission and Public Workshops and Hearings were held. These Hearings resulted in the adoption of regulations related to changes in initial endorsement requirements (from TESL to English Language Acquisition and Development (ELAD), the inclusion of practicum/field work in coursework, licensure renewal requirements including ELAD courses, and the addition of a new “ELAD Specialist” endorsement option. (See section below for R-document reference numbers.)
  - The Commission deliberated on all 4 recommendations made by the TESL subcommittee of the English Mastery Council. Three of these (noted above) were adopted. However, the Commission felt strongly that the fourth recommendation, requiring all new licensees to have the English Language Acquisition and Development endorsement, would be unduly burdensome to educator preparation institutions and to hiring districts, at a time of teacher shortage. Thus, this recommendation was unanimously not approved at the Workshop. The Commission did pass the EMC recommendation that all existing licensees pursue professional development or coursework related to ELAD upon licensure renewal, thus assisting in the goal for Nevada’s teacher to become more knowledgeable with regard to the instruction of dual language learners.

- Assembly Bill 234 of the 2015 Legislative session made revisions to NRS 389 and NRS 391, directing The Council on Academic Standards and The Commission on Professional Standards in Education to adopt regulatory changes in regard to the addition of Multicultural Education requirements.
  - The Nevada Department of Education assisted with the establishment of a working group to assist in developing the definition of multicultural education, the appropriate coursework content, and licensure recommendations regarding renewal requirements. While the work of the group has not yet been completed, the Commission will actively work with the Department to see the work through to conclusion in order to meet the statutory mandate. The first applicant pool to be affected by the impending regulation change would be those with a license expiring in July 2018.
REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION
2015-2016

R032-15 (NAC 391.425) – Made changes to required coursework for renewal of a secondary Business and Industry license

R033-15 (NAC 391.420) – Aligned areas for which secondary Business and Industry endorsements may be issued with CTE program areas

R034-15 (NAC 391.013, 391.030, 391.045, 391.056, 391.425) – Amended definition of “full state certification;” added requirement for coursework in parental involvement and family engagement; aligned other regulations with these changes

R138-15 (NAC 391.320) – Provided a one-year window after licensure for social workers licensed in another state to obtain equivalent Nevada licensure

R139-15 (NAC 391.223) – Allowed audiologists to provide audiological services to pupils aged 3 to 22 years instead of the prior age group of kindergarten through grade 12

R140-15 (NAC 391.327) – Replaced TESL endorsement with more rigorous ELAD endorsement

R143-15 (NAC 391.073) – Changed retiree license requirements to allow retired employees of private schools to qualify for retiree licensure

R152-15 (NAC 391.1309) - Amended requirements for CTE endorsement in manufacturing technologies

R153-15 (NAC 391.13043) – Revised coursework requirements for secondary comprehensive major in mathematics

R154-15 (not yet added to NAC) – Created Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG) endorsement

R025-16 (NAC 391.013) – Repealed NAC 391.013 to coincide with the repeal of NCLB

R026-16 (NAC 391.056) – Extended provisional licensure for one year to all areas of licensure
R141-15 (NAC 391.065) – Requires all educators to complete ELAD coursework as part of requirements for license renewal

R142-15 (NAC 391.077) – Amends requirements and process for extension of an educator’s license

R039-16 (NAC 391.131) – Changes secondary foreign language endorsement from specified languages to “World Languages”

R040-16 (NAC 391.045) – Changes fee for initial license from $161 to $180

R041-16 (NAC 391.055) – Clarifies which teaching experience may or may not be used to satisfy student teaching requirements

R043-16 (NAC 391.0565) – Changes fee to convert a nonrenewable license to a standard or professional license from $131 to $150

R044-16 (NAC 391.070) – Changes license renewal fee from $131 to $150; adds an additional $30 to the renewal fee for any licensee who applied for and was granted an extension of their license prior to renewal

R045-16 (NAC 391.073) – Changes retiree license renewal fee from $131 to $150