

*2021 Annual Report  
February 24, 2022*

# COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION

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

*This report was  
completed by NDE  
staff on behalf of  
the Commission*

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
**COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION**  
**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 eleven Commission members are appointed by the Governor. Pursuant to NRS 391.011, the membership makeup is as follows:

- Five members of the Commission must be educators who teach in Nevada schools:
  - (a) One who holds a license to teach secondary education and teaches in a secondary school;
  - (b) One who holds a license to teach middle school or junior high school education and teaches in a middle school or junior high school;
  - (c) One who holds a license to teach elementary school and teaches in an elementary school;
  - (d) One who holds a license to teach special education and teaches special education;
  - (e) One who holds a license to teach pupils in a program of early childhood education and teaches in a program of early childhood education.
- The remaining members of the Commission must include:
  - (a) One school counselor, psychologist, speech-language pathologist, audiologist, or social worker who is licensed pursuant to Chapter 391 of NRS and is employed by a school district or charter school;
  - (b) One administrator of a school who is employed by a school district or charter school to provide administrative service at an individual school and not at the district level;
  - (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 the parent or legal guardian of a pupil enrolled in a public school;
  - (e) One member who has expertise and experience in the operation of a business.
  - (f) One member who is the superintendent of schools of a school district.
- The Governor must appoint three of the five teachers from a list of names of at least three persons for each position that is submitted by an employee organization representing the majority

of teachers in the State of Nevada who teach at the educational level from which the appointment is being made.

- The Governor must appoint the school counselor, psychologist, speech-language pathologist, audiologist, or social worker from a list of names of at least three persons that is submitted by an employee organization representing the majority of school counselors, psychologists, speech-language pathologists, audiologists or social workers in the State of Nevada who are not administrators.
- The Governor must appoint the two school administrators from a list of names of at least three persons for each position that is submitted by an organization of administrators for schools in which the majority of administrators of schools in the State of Nevada have membership.
- The Governor must appoint the parent or legal guardian of a pupil enrolled in a public school from a list of names of persons submitted by the Nevada Parent Teacher Association or its successor organization.

Membership Terms: No member of the Commission may serve more than two terms. (NRS 391.013)

Officers: The Commission shall elect one of its members as President and one of its members as Vice 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.

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION  
LIST OF COMMISSIONERS**

As of February 14, 2022, the following are serving members of the Commission:

- **Kenny Belknap** – Holds a license to teach secondary education and teaches in a secondary school.
- **Jennifer A. Carvalho** - Parent or legal guardian of a student attending a public school.
- **Jennifer Davis** – Holds a license to teach early childhood education and teaches early childhood education.
- **Maria Roberts** – Dean of the College of Education at an NSHE university or their designee.
- **Richard Stokes** – Superintendent of schools of a school district.
- **Christina Tucker** – Holds a license to teach elementary education and teaches in an elementary school.
- **Jordan Wenger** – A school counselor, psychologist, speech-language pathologist, audiologist, or social worker, licensed and employed by a school district or charter school.
- **Aaron West-Guillen (Commission President)** – Member with expertise and experience in the operation of a business.

As of February 14, 2022, the following positions on the Commission are vacant:

- A person who holds a license to teach middle or junior high education and teaches in a middle or junior high school.
- A person who holds a license to teach special education and teaches special education.
- An administrator of a school employed by a district or charter school who works at the school level.

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION  
2022 WORK PLAN**

1. The Commission will continue to be responsive to statutory changes required as a result of the 2019 and 2021 Legislative sessions and will create, revise and amend NAC 391 accordingly.
2. The Commission will continue to review chapter 391 of NAC and make necessary revisions in response to 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  
81<sup>st</sup> LEGISLATIVE SESSION (2021)**

- Assembly Bill 225 in the 2021 Legislative Session directed the Commission, when adopting regulations, to consider including alternative means of demonstrating competency other than examinations for persons with a disability or health-related need.
  - The Nevada Department of Education is in the process of researching best practices in this area, as well as what would be considered appropriate alternative means of demonstrating competency. The Department is also in the process of soliciting stakeholders to take part in a work group to consider how this could best be implemented.
  
- Senate Bill 352 in the 2021 Legislative Session amended NRS 391.019, directing the Commission to make regulations to allow a person who is employed as a paraprofessional and who is enrolled in a program of educator preparation to complete an accelerated program of student teaching while remaining employed as a paraprofessional; to require the Department of Education to accept a substantially similar program of student teaching that was completed in another state or a foreign country; and to allow a person who is employed by a public school to provide support services related to school psychology, to complete a school psychology internship while remaining employed in such a position.
  - The Nevada Department of Education convened a work group early in 2022 to discuss these requirements and how to integrate them into existing regulations and processes. Based upon feedback obtained from that work group, Department staff are currently drafting regulations to implement the necessary changes.

**REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION ON  
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION  
2021**

**R076-19 (NAC 391.045, 391.050, 391.052, 391.0535, 391.054, 391.0575, 391.067)** – Updated licensure requirements to align ARL licensure with traditional licensure; allowed for professional development in lieu of coursework for the multicultural education and parent involvement and family engagement requirements for initial licensure; required expediting of applications for licensure submitted by members of the United States Armed Forces and veterans, and their spouses.

**R090-19 (NAC 391.015, 391.057, 391.0577, 391.0583, 391.089, 391.095, 391.1301, 391.171, 391.276)** – Allowed an ARL licensee to serve as a substitute teacher; allowed licensure of a member of the United States Armed Forces, or his or her spouse, who has completed an ARL program in another state; updated the requirements for early childhood education and elementary education licensure; made language changes to conform to other sections of NRS and NAC; removed the special qualifications license pursuant to Senate Bill 41 in the 2019 Legislative Session.

**Temporary regulation amending NAC 391.0896** – Expired November 1, 2021. Allowed school districts with a student enrollment of over 9,000 pupils to employ individuals holding only an emergency substitute license, during a state of emergency declared by the Governor pursuant to NRS 414.070.

**REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION ON  
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION  
IN 2021 - PENDING HEARING AND APPROVAL BY  
THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION**

**R026-20 (NAC 391.202, 391.253)** – Changes the license to teach computer technology-based applications and computational thinking to a license to teach introductory computer science, and expands the availability of the license to educators at all levels; revises the requirements to obtain an endorsement to teach pupils in the Jobs for America’s Graduates program.



**REGULATIONS PENDING PUBLIC HEARING BY THE  
COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION**

**R113-20 (NAC 391.120, 391.125, 391.1312, 391.252, 391.315)** – Makes a number of changes to licensure practices that conform either to other language in NAC or to current practice.

**R114-20 (NAC 391.036, 391.420, 391.425)** – Allows the substitution of a licensure applicant’s SAT or ACT, with certain minimum scores, for passage of the Praxis CORE series of examinations; allows the substitution of a NOCTI certificate of competence to add an endorsement in a CTE area to an existing license; allows a person holding a Business and Industry license to add an endorsement in introductory or advance computer science, cultural competency, or social, emotional and academic development.

**R117-20 (NAC 391.627)** – Clarifies the requirements for training on the Model Code of Ethics for Educators to be provided to school employees by school districts.

**R028-21 (NAC 391.0896)** – Allows school districts with a student enrollment of over 9,000 pupils to employ individuals holding only an emergency substitute license, during a state of emergency declared by the Governor pursuant to NRS 414.070. Replaces the temporary regulation enacted in 2021 to amend NAC 391.0896.