

BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA

SOUTHERN NEVADA OFFICE
9890 S. Maryland Parkway, Suite 221
Las Vegas, Nevada 89183
(702) 486-6458
Fax: (702)486-6450
http://www.doe.nv.gov/Educator_Licensure

DALE A.R. ERQUIAGA
Superintendent of Public Instruction



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
700 E. Fifth Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-5096
(775) 687 - 9200 · Fax: (775) 687 - 9101
<http://www.doe.nv.gov>

July 2, 2015

GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM #15-10

TO: Clark County Superintendent Pat Skorkowsky

COPY: All School Districts and Charter Schools

FROM: Dale A.R. Erquiaga
Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Request for Guidance Following the 2015 Legislative Session – Senate Bill 515, Section 19, Subsection 5(f)

On June 10, 2015, you submitted 19 letters requesting detailed guidance on a number of bills passed by the 78th Regular Session of the Nevada Legislature and signed by Governor Sandoval. This guidance memorandum addresses **Senate Bill 515, Section 19, Subsection 5(f)** that provides for funding for Career and Technical Education and builds on Guidance Memorandum #15-03, issued on June 19, 2015. Your letter about this specific section of the bill is attached and incorporated by reference. This guidance is issued pursuant to the authority provided in NRS 385.175(5), directing the Superintendent of Public Instruction to enforce the observance of Title 34 of Nevada's statutes and all other statutes and regulations governing public education.

Senate Bill 515, Section 19, Subsection 5(f) – Career & Technical Education (CTE)

Three applications were released on July 1, 2015, and are available on the Department's website at: [http://cteae.nv.gov/Career and Technical Education/CTE Grants Home/](http://cteae.nv.gov/Career_and_Technical_Education/CTE_Grants_Home/).

- FY16 State CTE Competitive RFA – this grant competition provides for new programs, program expansion, and program improvement.
- FY16 State CTE Allocation Fund RFA – this allocation grant provides funding based on student counts for program expansion, improvement, and support.
- FY16 State CTE Allocation Fund RFA (New Programs) – this allocation grant provides funding based on student counts for districts to develop new programs where such programs did not exist.

The applications were the result of significant feedback and open development processes. For example, all districts were invited to provide input about the new application process at a meeting in Reno on June 15, 2015. Specifically, Clark County School District was represented at that meeting by four staff members.

Guidance Memorandum #15-10

July 2, 2015

Page Two

Each application provides clear timelines and guidance to complete the sections as well as a clear overview of evaluation process. Briefly, the competitive grant application will be due approximately forty-five (45) days from the date of release, while allocation grants will be due October 2, 2015. Competitive grant awards are confirmed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction (Superintendent) following the review committee recommendations of representatives of the industry sector councils. The review committee rates all applications and then collectively makes funding recommendations; those recommendations are then presented to the Superintendent. Allocation grant awards are formula based. Those applications are reviewed by NDE staff to determine if the application meets the requirements and allowable uses of funds of the state application. Modifications are often negotiated with LEA staff. Please refer to each application for more detail.

Initial funds will be awarded the first week of July for those applications submitted in May and based on the fiscal year 2015 authorization (as referenced in Guidance Memorandum #15-03). The funds will be awarded for the additional funding authorized by the Legislature as follows:

- **Competitive grant applications:** The estimated time for the announcement of these awards is early September, such as September 1.
- **Allocation grant applications:** The due date for the new allocation grant applications will be October 2. A later due date was actually proposed by CCSD staff in the meeting on June 15 and other stakeholders concurred. The reason for the extended due date is to allow districts greater flexibility, whereby districts can submit the new allocation grant applications prior to that time or they can wait until the competitive grant application awards are announced to determine if allocation funds should be used for other purposes. The NDE has agreed to award partial funding in stages up through October 2 for the allocation funds, to add even more flexibility.

Districts and qualifying charter schools may use funds on human capital as long as supplanting is not an issue. Prep buyouts to augment course offerings, such as level 3 courses, may be sought. The viability of the human capital strategy will be evaluated by the review committee in their evaluation of the competitive grant.

Using state or federal grant funds to pay for certifications of personal benefit has not been allowed in the past, based on non-regulatory guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Education for the Carl Perkins Act. The Department is eager to work with stakeholders on this issue.

An essential goal of the Department of Education is to increase students who complete CTE programs (completing the third-level course in a three-course sequence.) In fact, program expansion has now been more narrowly defined to mean either: (1) adding programming to serve a greater numbers of students (i.e., adding more course sections) for beginning through advanced courses, or (2) adding courses to enable students to complete the full sequence and qualify for the State Certificate of Skill Attainment, where such completion level courses did not previously exist.



June 10, 2015

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Dr. Linda E. Young, President
Chris Garvey, Vice President
Deanna L. Wright, Clerk
Kevin L. Child, Member
Erin E. Cranor, Member
Carolyn Edwards, Member
Patrice Tew, Member

Pat Skorkowsky, Superintendent

Dale A.R. Erquiaga
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Nevada Department of Education
700 E. Fifth Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Mr. Erquiaga:

The Clark County School District is ready to implement the work the Department of Education was able to accomplish during this legislative session. At this time, we are requesting a guidance memo related to legislation recently passed and signed into law. As the state superintendent of instruction, you were instrumental in the passage of these new programs, and we seek your guidance as we implement the new requirements. Many of the newly passed bills become effective on July 1, 2015. This requires immediate action by school districts across the state, given the current date and unclear scope of work and expectations in each bill.

Senate Bill 515, Section 19, Subsection 5(f) Questions:

For funds being awarded for grants for career and technical education pursuant to NRS 388.393:

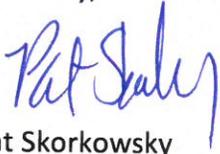
1. When will the application for funds be released? Will there be an opportunity for public/district input on developing the application and criteria?
2. When will completed applications be due for submission?
3. What criteria will be used to determine how grants are dispersed?
4. When will the funds be awarded?
5. Will districts be allowed to use funds on human capital such as prep buyouts or full/partial FTEs for instructional or support staff?
6. Who will be eligible to apply?
7. Will there be a maximum award amount established? If so, how will this amount be established to ensure equitability based on the number of students served?
8. Will this funding allow for greater flexibility, such as paying for individual certifications/credentials?
9. Will this funding provide for Level 3 courses?

Mr. Erquiaga
Page 2
June 10, 2015

Since Section 19, Subsection 5(f), of Senate Bill 133 becomes effective on July 1, 2015; a response to the questions above is requested by July 1, 2015, to ensure compliance, as well as a consistent and successful implementation. Without this vital information and clarification of these questions, it will be extremely difficult to be ready for full implementation.

We appreciate your immediate attention to this request. Our team is ready and willing to meet with individuals or teams from the Department to work through these questions. I cannot overstate the sense of urgency that the diligent staff of the Clark County School District feels at this critical time.

Sincerely,



Pat Skorkowsky
Superintendent of Schools

"Every student in every classroom, without exceptions, without excuses"

cc: Clark County School District Board of Trustees
Elaine Wynn, president, Nevada State Board of Education
Members, Nevada State Board of Education
Nevada Association of School Superintendents