

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
REGULATION WORKSHOP
JANUARY 11, 2018

Meeting Locations:

Office	Address	City	Meeting Room
Department of Education	9890 S. Maryland Pkwy	Las, Vegas	Board Room (2 nd Floor)
Department of Education	700 E. Fifth St	Carson City	Board Room

SUMMARY MINUTES

(Video Conferenced)

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:

In Las Vegas

In Carson City

Steve Canavero, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Will Jensen, Director, Special Education
Karen Johansen, Assistant to the State Board of Education

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT

In Carson City

Greg Ott, Deputy Attorney General

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:

In Las Vegas:

Stacy Mall, Clark County School District
Lindsay Know, McDonald and Carano Law Firm
Bill Garris, CCASA

Carson City:

Marva Clevon, Lyon County School District
Valerie Dockery, Carson City School District
Mary Pierczynski, Nevada Association of School Superintendents

Call to Order;

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m.

Public Comment #1

There was no public comment

Workshop to solicit comments on proposed amendments to NAC 388, as it relates to special education and gifted and talented educational programs.

The workshop opened at 12:00 p.m. There were three individuals in attendance in Las Vegas and three individuals in attendance in Carson City.

Will Jensen, Director, Special Education explained that work on this regulation began over two years ago. At that time there was stakeholder input regarding revisions related to clean-up language in anticipation of what would occur in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan. When the 2017 Legislative Session began it became apparent that there were more changes coming from the legislative session and the decision was made to start fresh and include Gifted and Talented Education in the regulation for efficiency.

An overview of the provisions was provided. The intent of this regulation is to clean-up language to make administration easier. No changes have been included that would limit parental access to student records.

Public Comment

Marva Cleven, Lyon County School District, said much of this regulation work was done when she was the Director of Special Education at the NDE under superintendent Erquiaga. She worked with stakeholder groups and directors of special education throughout the state. Now, as a member of the Special Education Advisory group, she supports all the changes which bring codes up to date.

Valerie Dockery, Director, GATE program and Academically Talented Education Program, Carson City School District, said that over the last five years, before state funds were available for gifted education, Carson City School District began re-vamping services for gifted students. Today they offer GATE classes in elementary and middle schools in Carson City. Students enrolled in their programs receive differentiated and accelerated instruction for an average of three to four hours per day from GATE endorsed teachers.

Ms. Dockery said that Carson City School District supports changes to NAC 388.435, section 1 and the changes to section 5 being proposed today with the recommendation that there is some flexibility for teachers in completing the GATE licensure requirements due to the teacher shortage in Nevada. They also support changes to section 6, but suggest it is modified to read: *A public agency qualifies for state funding for special services and programs or instruction for pupils who are gifted and talented if the public agency identifies and serves such pupils in accordance with the provisions of subsections 1 through 5 of this section.*

Ms. Dockery suggested that subsections 2, 3, and 4, which speak to alternative assessment procedures and a team approach to eligibility, still need to be considered in the identification and the allocation of funding. Although they agree that nothing in this section should require a public agency to provide special services and programs of instruction for pupils that are gifted and talented, they believe the intent of S.B. 544 was to reach as many students as possible across the state, especially in small rural counties. To date, only seven districts and the state charter school authority are receiving those funds. Any changes made to NAC need to take these considerations into account so that under-represented students who are gifted and talented across Nevada receive the education they need to “be ready for success in a global 21st century.”

The workshop closed at 12:20 p.m.

Public Comment #2

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:29 p.m.