

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
SUBCOMMITTEES ON K-12/HIGHER EDUCATION/CIP**

**Seventy-Eighth Session
May 4, 2015**

The joint meeting of the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means and Senate Committee on Finance Subcommittees on K-12/Higher Education/CIP was called to order by Chair Pat Hickey at 8:15 a.m. on Monday, May 4, 2015, in Room 3137 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. Copies of the minutes, including the Agenda ([Exhibit A](#)), the Attendance Roster ([Exhibit B](#)), and other substantive exhibits, are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and on the Nevada Legislature's website: www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015. In addition, copies of the audio or video of the meeting may be purchased, for personal use only, through the Legislative Counsel Bureau's Publications Office (email: publications@lcb.state.nv.us; telephone: 775-684-6835).

ASSEMBLY SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblyman Pat Hickey, Chair
Assemblyman Derek Armstrong, Vice Chair
Assemblyman Paul Anderson
Assemblywoman Teresa Benitez-Thompson
Assemblywoman Marilyn K. Kirkpatrick
Assemblyman Randy Kirner
Assemblyman James Oscarson
Assemblywoman Heidi Swank

SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Ben Kieckhefer, Chair
Senator Debbie Smith

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Senator Michael Roberson



STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst
Alex Haartz, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Andrea McCalla, Program Analyst
Carol Thomsen, Committee Secretary
Cynthia Wyett, Committee Assistant

After call of the roll, Chair Hickey opened public comment, and there was no public comment to come before the Subcommittees.

Chair Hickey noted that some budget items were contingent upon the passage of pending legislation; however, the Subcommittees would make funding decisions today, and if legislation relating to any budget items heard today failed to pass, the funding would subsequently be removed from the budget accounts.

EDUCATION

STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY (101-2711)

BUDGET PAGE CHARTER SCHOOL-6

Andrea McCalla, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated there were two major closing issues in budget account (BA) 2711.

The first issue, said Ms. McCalla, was a new unclassified deputy director position requested in decision unit Enhancement (E) 275. The Governor recommended reserve reductions of \$96,512 in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and \$120,497 in FY 2017 to fund a new, unclassified deputy director position and associated operating costs. According to the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA), the unclassified deputy director position was needed because the workload of the agency was growing as the number of charter schools approved and opened was growing.

Ms. McCalla stated the position would be located in Las Vegas and would assume a leadership role to ensure compliance with policies and procedures. The SPCSA indicated that with the new deputy director position, the Director would not be required to spend as much time on travel and deputy-level activities, increasing the time the Director could spend improving charter school

practices. The SPCSA also indicated there was a need for senior leadership with decision-making authority in the Las Vegas area.

Ms. McCalla said Fiscal Analysis Division staff noted that a technical adjustment would be necessary to reduce in-state travel by \$5,901 in each year of the biennium. The SPCSA concurred with that technical adjustment.

The decision, said Ms. McCalla, was whether the Subcommittees wished to approve reserve reductions of \$96,512 in FY 2016 and \$120,497 in FY 2017 to fund a new unclassified deputy director position and associated operating costs as recommended by the Governor in decision unit E-275, with the technical adjustment to reduce in-state travel costs by \$5,901 in each year of the biennium. Fiscal Analysis Division staff noted that the salary for the position would be set in the Unclassified Pay Bill and requested authority to make any needed technical adjustments.

ASSEMBLYMAN KIRNER MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES APPROVE RESERVE REDUCTIONS OF \$96,512 IN FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND \$120,497 IN FISCAL YEAR 2017 TO FUND A NEW UNCLASSIFIED DEPUTY DIRECTOR POSITION AND ASSOCIATED OPERATING COSTS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR IN DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT (E) 275, WITH THE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT TO REDUCE IN-STATE TRAVEL COSTS BY \$5,901 IN EACH YEAR OF THE BIENNIUM, AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE ANY OTHER NEEDED TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER SECONDED THE MOTION.

Assemblywoman Kirkpatrick asked where the position would be housed in Las Vegas. Ms. McCalla replied that the SPCSA had space in its Las Vegas office.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblyman Oscarson and Senator Roberson were not present for the vote).

Ms. McCalla said the second major closing issue in BA 2711 was the request for three new positions for the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) office.

The first request in decision unit Enhancement (E) 226 was for an accountant position. That position would serve as the project manager for the agency budget and all Interim Finance Committee (IFC) requests and activities; manage and participate in forecasting funding; monitor and approve expenditures; prepare reports; manage grants; and assist the administrative services officer position.

The decision, said Ms. McCalla, was whether the Subcommittees wished to approve reserve reductions of \$55,275 in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and \$68,985 in FY 2017 to fund a new accountant position and associated operating costs as recommended by the Governor in decision unit E-226.

SENATOR SMITH MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES APPROVE RESERVE REDUCTIONS OF \$55,275 IN FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND \$68,985 IN FISCAL YEAR 2017 TO FUND A NEW ACCOUNTANT POSITION AND ASSOCIATED OPERATING COSTS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR IN DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT (E) 226.

ASSEMBLYMAN ARMSTRONG SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblyman Oscarson and Senator Roberson were not present for the vote.)

Ms. McCalla said the second position requested in decision unit Enhancement (E) 226 was a management analyst position. The new position would manage the day-to-day charter application process and support continuous improvement of that function. The proposed workload consisted of eight initial applications, five resubmitted applications, and two to four renewal applications annually. The position would also be responsible for application training; compliance training; grants management processes; and annual reporting.

Ms. McCalla noted there were currently two existing management analyst positions in the SPCSA. Based on information provided by the agency, it did not appear to Fiscal Analysis Division staff that the projected workload was sufficient to justify the need for the new management analyst position.

The decision, said Ms. McCalla, was whether the Subcommittees wished to approve charter school revenue of \$57,133 in FY 2016 and \$71,485 in FY 2017 to support a new management analyst position and associated operating costs as recommended by the Governor.

ASSEMBLYMAN ARMSTRONG MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES NOT APPROVE THE REQUESTED MANAGEMENT ANALYST POSITION IN DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT (E) 226 AS RECOMMENDED BY FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF.

SENATOR SMITH SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

The third position, said Ms. McCalla, was the request in decision unit Enhancement (E) 277 for a new accounting assistant position. The Governor recommended reserve reductions of \$40,658 in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and \$49,993 in FY 2017 to fund a new classified accounting assistant position and associated operating costs for the Carson City office of the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA).

Ms. McCalla said the SPCSA indicated the position was necessary because of the additional workload presented by the growing charter school caseload. Currently, the SPCSA did not have an accounting assistant position to address day-to-day invoices, reporting, and documents.

Ms. McCalla indicated that the recommendation appeared reasonable to Fiscal Analysis Division staff, and the decision was whether the Subcommittees wished to approve reserve reductions totaling \$40,658 in FY 2016 and \$49,993 in FY 2017 to support a new accounting assistant position as recommended by the Governor in decision unit E-227.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES APPROVE RESERVE REDUCTIONS TOTALING \$40,658 IN FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND \$49,993 IN FISCAL YEAR 2017 TO SUPPORT A NEW ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT POSITION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR IN DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT (E) 227.

ASSEMBLYMAN ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

Ms. McCalla noted there were three other closing items in budget account (BA) 2711, and a technical adjustment had been made by Fiscal Analysis Division staff to align the fee revenues in the Governor's budget with the updated amounts in the base budget. All other closing items appeared reasonable to Fiscal Analysis Division staff, and staff recommended that all other closing items be closed as recommended by the Governor, with authority for Fiscal Analysis Division staff to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BENITEZ-THOMPSON MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES CLOSE ALL OTHER CLOSING ITEMS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE THE NOTED TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT AND OTHER TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

EDUCATION
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL LOAN PROGRAM (101-2708)
BUDGET PAGE CHARTER SCHOOL-13

Andrea McCalla, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that budget account (BA) 2708 had no major closing issues. There were two other closing items. One item was a technical adjustment to add distributions of interest income from the Office of the State Treasurer in the amount of \$1,500 in each year of the biennium.

Ms. McCalla stated Fiscal Analysis Division staff recommended closing BA 2708 as recommended by the Governor, with the technical adjustment to add distributions of interest income from the Office of the Treasurer in the amount

of \$1,500 in each year of the biennium, and with authority for Fiscal Analysis Division staff to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

ASSEMBLYMAN KIRNER MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES CLOSE BUDGET ACCOUNT 2708 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR, WITH THE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT TO ADD DISTRIBUTIONS OF INTEREST INCOME FROM THE OFFICE OF THE TREASURER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,500 IN EACH YEAR OF THE BIENNIUM, AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE OTHER TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NDE - OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (101-2673)
BUDGET PAGE K-12 EDUCATION-45

Andrea McCalla, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that budget account (BA) 2673 included information on the reorganization of the Department of Education.

As the Subcommittees might recall, said Ms. McCalla, beginning with the 2015-2017 biennium, the Governor recommended a reorganization of the Department of Education's budget structure, to align the budgets with the activities and functional areas within the Department. The proposed reorganization would divide the Department into three divisions: (1) the Division of Business and Support Services; (2) the Division of Student Achievement; and (3) the Division of Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement.

Ms. McCalla said there were a total of 24 new positions requested for the Department at a cost of \$4.1 million over the 2015-2017 biennium, with 7 positions recommended as part of the major budget initiatives for K-12 education. There were also 66 positions recommended for transfer among 15 budget accounts within the Department.

In addition to the reorganization, said Ms. McCalla, there were four major closing issues in BA 2673. The first major closing issue was the request for a new deputy superintendent position in decision unit Enhancement (E) 275. The Governor recommended State General Fund appropriations of \$112,570 in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and \$141,615 in FY 2017 to fund a new unclassified deputy superintendent position and associated operating costs. Ms. McCalla said the position would oversee the Division of Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement. The position would supervise the administrative and operational activities of staff in the Las Vegas office and provide general oversight for management of the Department's southern Nevada office.

Ms. McCalla noted that there appeared to be a significant overlap of duties between the existing southern office administrator position and the proposed position. Testimony from the Department indicated that the Division of Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement was the most underresourced area; therefore, the position was needed. Ms. McCalla also noted that the salary of the deputy superintendent position would be established in the Unclassified Pay Bill.

The decision, said Ms. McCalla, was whether the Subcommittees wished to approve General Fund appropriations totaling \$112,570 in FY 2016 and \$141,615 in FY 2017 to fund a new unclassified deputy superintendent position and associated operating costs, as requested in decision unit E-275, and authorize Fiscal Analysis Division staff to make any needed technical adjustments based on the salaries established for the position.

SENATOR SMITH MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES APPROVE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS TOTALING \$112,570 IN FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND \$141,615 IN FISCAL YEAR 2017 TO FUND A NEW UNCLASSIFIED DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT POSITION AND ASSOCIATED OPERATING COSTS, AS REQUESTED IN DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT (E) 275, AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE ANY NEEDED TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS BASED ON THE SALARY ESTABLISHED FOR THE POSITION.

ASSEMBLYMAN ARMSTRONG SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

Ms. McCalla said the second major closing issue was the request in decision unit Enhancement (E) 225 for a new management analyst position. The Governor recommended State General Fund appropriations of \$54,812 in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and \$69,623 in FY 2017 to fund one new management analyst position and associated operating costs.

Ms. McCalla said the Department indicated the position would provide assistance to the Superintendent of Public Instruction by conducting surveys, research, and analysis of policies and programs; evaluating regulations, rules, and forms prescribed by the State Board of Education; and coordinating the Department's legislation and informational analysis.

Per Ms. McCalla, in response to inquiries from Fiscal Analysis Division staff about whether the position was related to the reorganization, the Department indicated that the position was requested only to assist with the existing workload. Based on testimony provided by the agency, decision unit E-225 appeared reasonable to staff.

The decision, said Ms. McCalla, was whether the Subcommittees wished to approve State General Fund appropriations totaling \$54,812 in FY 2016 and \$69,623 in FY 2017 to fund a new management analyst position and associated costs as recommended by the Governor in decision unit E-225.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES APPROVE STATE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS TOTALING \$54,812 IN FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND \$69,623 IN FISCAL YEAR 2017 TO FUND A NEW MANAGEMENT ANALYST POSITION AND ASSOCIATED COSTS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR IN DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT (E) 225.

ASSEMBLYMAN ARMSTRONG SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

Ms. McCalla said the next major closing issue in BA 2673 was increased operating expenditures for the Public Information Office, Department of Education, as requested in decision unit Enhancement (E) 226. The Governor recommended State General Fund appropriations of \$31,923 in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and \$21,498 in FY 2017 to increase the operating expenses of the Public Information Office (PIO). Ms. McCalla noted that \$4,044 was approved in each year for in-state travel for the 2013-2015 biennium, and \$300 was approved in each year of the biennium for operating supplies. The Department indicated that the additional funding would enhance outreach campaigns and would be used to contract with a public relations service to purchase commercial items, general office and event supplies, and printing and mailing services, and to increase the in-state travel budget for the public information officer position. Ms. McCalla said the public information officer position expended \$1,272 of the approved \$9,044 in FY 2014 for travel expenses.

Ms. McCalla stated the Department indicated an estimated \$30,000 over the biennium would be used for an outside public relations vendor. In response to an inquiry by Fiscal Analysis Division staff regarding the possible use of the Department's nonexecutive Education Gift Fund budget to fund promotional items in the amount of \$7,200 over the biennium, the Department indicated it would not be opposed to a technical adjustment to move those expenditures to the nonexecutive Education Gift Fund, budget account (BA) 2701.

The decision, said Ms. McCalla was whether the Subcommittees wished to approve State General Fund appropriations totaling \$28,323 in FY 2016 and \$17,898 in FY 2017 to fund an increase in the operating budget of the Public Information Office, Department of Education, and use a net of \$3,600 in each year for promotional items funded through its nonexecutive Education Gift Fund budget.

ASSEMBLYMAN KIRNER MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES APPROVE STATE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS TOTALING \$28,323 IN FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND \$17,898 IN FISCAL YEAR 2017 TO FUND AN INCREASE IN THE OPERATING BUDGET OF THE PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, IN DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT (E) 226, INCLUDING A TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT TOTALING \$3,600 IN EACH YEAR OF THE BIENNIUM TO FUND PROMOTIONAL ITEMS THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S NONEXECUTIVE EDUCATION GIFT FUND BUDGET ACCOUNT.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

Ms. McCalla said the next major closing issue in BA 2673 was the unclassified salary increases requested in decision unit Enhancement (E) 806. The Governor recommended State General Fund appropriations of \$3,924 in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and \$3,925 in FY 2017 to provide salary increases over the biennium for the deputy superintendent of business and support services to equalize the salaries of the two existing deputy superintendent positions at \$107,465. The decision unit also included a salary increase of \$2,399 in each year of the biennium to equalize the salary of the Superintendent of Public Instruction position with other department heads at \$127,721. Ms. McCalla said the remaining funding would be related to benefit increases. She noted that pay levels would be established in the Unclassified Pay Bill, and based on the testimony provided, decision unit E-806 appeared reasonable to staff.

The decision, said Ms. McCalla, was whether the Subcommittees wished to approve State General Fund appropriations of \$3,924 in FY 2016 and \$3,925 in FY 2017 to provide salary and related benefit increases for the deputy superintendent of business and support services and a salary increase of \$2,399 in each year of the biennium for the state Superintendent of Public Instruction as recommended by the Governor in decision unit E-806, with authority for Fiscal Analysis Division staff to make technical adjustments should the salaries in the Unclassified Pay Bill differ.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES APPROVE STATE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$3,924 IN FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND \$3,925 IN FISCAL YEAR 2017 TO PROVIDE SALARY AND RELATED BENEFIT INCREASES FOR THE DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF BUSINESS AND SUPPORT SERVICES AND A SALARY INCREASE OF \$2,399 IN EACH YEAR OF THE BIENNIUM FOR THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR IN DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT (E) 806 AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS SHOULD THE SALARIES IN THE UNCLASSIFIED PAY BILL DIFFER.

ASSEMBLYMAN ARMSTRONG SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

Ms. McCalla stated there were 16 other closing items in BA 2673, all of which appeared reasonable to Fiscal Analysis Division staff. Staff recommended closing all other closing items as recommended by the Governor, with authority for Fiscal Analysis Division staff to make technical adjustments as necessary.

ASSEMBLYMAN OSCARSON MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES CLOSE ALL OTHER CLOSING ITEMS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NDE - EDUCATIONAL TRUST ACCOUNT (101-2614)

BUDGET PAGE K-12 EDUCATION-41

Andrea McCalla, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated the Educational Trust Account was established in *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 120A.610, subsection 8, and was funded by year-end transfers of 60 percent of the unredeemed or uncharged value of expired or abandoned gift certificates from the Abandoned Property Trust Account. Pursuant to that subsection, funding from the account could only be expended for educational purposes authorized by the Legislature.

Ms. McCalla stated there were two major closing issues in budget account (BA) 2614. The first issue was the New Graduate Student or Educator in Residence program in decision unit Enhancement (E) 294. The Governor recommended a reduction to reserves totaling \$204,920 over the upcoming biennium for two \$50,000 stipends and travel costs each fiscal year for either two graduate students or two educators in residence, or a combination of each,

to work approximately nine months at the Department of Education on projects related to accountability, educator effectiveness, or data-driven instruction.

According to the Department, said Ms. McCalla, graduate students or educators in residence would not be established as state positions. Based on the testimony and the information provided by the Department, decision unit E-294 appeared reasonable to Fiscal Analysis Division staff.

The decision, said Ms. McCalla, was whether the Subcommittees wished to approve decision unit E-294, which requested a reduction to reserves totaling \$204,920 over the 2015-2017 biennium for the new Graduate Student or Educator in Residence program.

Chair Hickey asked whether one graduate student would be selected from the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) and one graduate student from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV).

Ms. McCalla indicated that the Department did not know whether the students would be selected from both UNR and UNLV, and that decision would be made when the applicants were reviewed.

Dale Erquiaga, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Department of Education, concurred and stated that the Department would recruit on a statewide basis and select the most eligible applicants. Because there were offices in both northern and southern Nevada, it would be the Department's desire to have a graduate student from each location.

SENATOR SMITH MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES APPROVE
DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT (E) 294, WHICH REQUESTED
A REDUCTION TO RESERVES TOTALING \$204,920 OVER THE
2015-2017 BIENNIUM FOR THE NEW GRADUATE STUDENT OR
EDUCATOR IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM.

ASSEMBLYMAN ARMSTRONG SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for
the vote.

Ms. McCalla stated that the second major closing issue was the Teacher of the Year program expenses in decision unit Enhancement (E) 297. She explained that The Executive Budget recommended a reduction to reserves of \$4,660 in each year of the biennium for an enhancement to the Teacher of the Year program. That would enable the Nevada Teacher of the Year to attend the International Space Camp. The recommendation appeared reasonable to Fiscal Analysis Division staff.

The decision, said Ms. McCalla, was whether the Subcommittees wished to approve a reduction to reserves of \$4,660 in each year of the biennium for additional Teacher of the Year program expenses.

SENATOR SMITH MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES APPROVE
A REDUCTION TO RESERVES OF \$4,660 IN EACH YEAR OF THE
2015-2017 BIENNIUM FOR ADDITIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR
PROGRAM EXPENSES IN DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT (E) 297.

ASSEMBLYMAN ARMSTRONG SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for
the vote.)

Ms. McCalla stated the one other closing item was the Family Engagement in Education Summit. During the budget hearing on March 3, 2015, the Department of Education testified that an enhancement of \$10,000 was inadvertently omitted from The Executive Budget to support the biennial Family Engagement in Education Summit.

The decision, said Ms. McCalla, was whether the Subcommittees wished to approve a reduction in reserves of \$10,000 in fiscal year (FY) 2016 to support the Family Engagement in Education Summit.

SENATOR SMITH MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES APPROVE
A REDUCTION IN RESERVES OF \$10,000 IN FISCAL YEAR 2016
TO SUPPORT THE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN EDUCATION
SUMMIT.

ASSEMBLYMAN ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NDE - DISTRICT SUPPORT SERVICES (101-2719)
BUDGET PAGE K-12 EDUCATION-60

Andrea McCalla, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that budget account (BA) 2719, District Support Services, staffed and administered the State Distributive School Account (DSA). The budget also included the grant monitoring function.

There were two major closing issues, said Ms. McCalla. The first was the funding source change for four positions as requested in decision unit Enhancement (E) 225. In conjunction with the creation of a grants management unit within the Department of Education, the Governor recommended a funding source change for three grants and projects analyst positions and one administrative services officer.

Ms. McCalla noted that The Executive Budget recommended State General Fund appropriations totaling \$503,520 in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and \$511,508 in FY 2017, a reduction of cost allocation reimbursements totaling \$388,451 in FY 2016 and \$396,439 in FY 2017, and an increase of federal indirect cost expenses of \$115,069 in each year of the biennium.

According to the organizational chart, said Ms. McCalla, the administrative services officer position would be supervising the positions funded by State General Fund appropriations and federal indirect cost allocations. Fiscal Analysis Division staff worked with the Department and the Budget Division, Department of Administration, and determined that the position should be funded by 75 percent State General Fund appropriations and 25 percent federal indirect cost allocations. Ms. McCalla stated that Fiscal Analysis Division staff would make a technical adjustment to reflect that change in the funding.

Ms. McCalla noted that the funding source for the supervisory grants and projects analyst position was recommended to change from 100 percent federal funds to 100 percent indirect cost allocations. The duties of those positions might involve supervision of the positions supported by both federal grant funds

and grants funded by State General Fund appropriations, and the positions also provided oversight to several specific federal grants. Fiscal Analysis Division staff worked with the Department and the Budget Division and determined that the positions should be funded 75 percent federal funds and 25 percent indirect cost allocations. Fiscal Analysis Division staff would make the technical adjustment to reflect the change in funding.

With the technical adjustments noted to change the funding of the administrative services officer position and the supervising grants and projects analyst positions, said Ms. McCalla, the recommendation appeared reasonable to staff.

The decision, said Ms. McCalla, was whether the Subcommittees wished to:

1. Approve State General Fund appropriations totaling \$503,520 in FY 2016 and \$511,508 in FY 2017 to restore base funding for the support of existing State General Fund positions in BA 2719 inadvertently eliminated during the adjusted base review process.
2. Approve the change to the funding source for one grants and projects analyst position and one administrative services officer position, with authority for Fiscal Analysis Division staff to make technical adjustments to modify the funding percentages.
3. Approve the remaining components of decision unit Enhancement (E) 225 for the recommended funding source change of three grants and projects analyst position and one administrative services officer position, including a recommended reduction to cost allocation reimbursements totaling \$388,451 in FY 2016 and \$396,439 in FY 2017 and a recommended increase of indirect cost expenditures totaling \$115,069 in each year of the biennium, with authority for Fiscal Analysis Division staff to make any necessary technical adjustments.

Chair Hickey stated he would accept a motion to approve BA 2719 as presented by Fiscal Analysis Division staff.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES:

APPROVE STATE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS TOTALING \$503,520 IN FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND \$511,508 IN FISCAL YEAR 2017 TO RESTORE BASE FUNDING FOR THE SUPPORT OF EXISTING STATE GENERAL FUND POSITIONS IN BUDGET ACCOUNT 2719 INADVERTENTLY ELIMINATED DURING THE ADJUSTED BASE REVIEW PROCESS.

APPROVE THE CHANGE TO THE FUNDING SOURCE FOR ONE GRANTS AND PROJECTS ANALYST POSITION AND ONE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES OFFICER POSITION AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS TO MODIFY THE FUNDING PERCENTAGES.

APPROVE THE REMAINING COMPONENTS OF DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT (E) 225 FOR THE RECOMMENDED FUNDING SOURCE CHANGE OF THREE GRANTS AND PROJECTS ANALYST POSITIONS AND ONE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES OFFICER POSITION, INCLUDING A RECOMMENDED REDUCTION TO COST ALLOCATION REIMBURSEMENTS TOTALING \$388,451 IN FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND \$396,439 IN FISCAL YEAR 2017 AND A RECOMMENDED INCREASE OF INDIRECT COST EXPENDITURES TOTALING \$115,069 IN EACH YEAR OF THE BIENNIUM, AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE ANY NECESSARY TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS.

ASSEMBLYMAN ARMSTRONG SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

Ms. McCalla stated the next major closing issue in BA 2719 was the request in decision unit Enhancement (E) 228 for a new grants and projects analyst position. The Governor recommended State General Fund appropriations of \$60,666 in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and \$76,342 in FY 2017 for the personnel and associated operating costs for one new grants and projects analyst position to administer state-funded grants.

Currently, said Ms. McCalla, the Department of Education had three full-time and one half-time grants and projects analyst positions. Because of the increase in state-funded grants recommended in The Executive Budget for the upcoming biennium, one full-time position was requested by the Department to manage the new grants. The position would not work on federal grants.

The decision, said Ms. McCalla, was whether the Subcommittees wished to approve State General Fund appropriations of \$60,666 in FY 2016 and \$76,342 in FY 2017 to fund one new grants and projects analyst position as recommended by the Governor.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES APPROVE STATE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$60,666 IN FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND \$76,342 IN FISCAL YEAR 2017 TO FUND ONE NEW GRANTS AND PROJECTS ANALYST POSITION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR IN DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT (E) 228.

ASSEMBLYMAN ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

Ms. McCalla stated there were 18 other closing items in the budget including the transfer of 22 positions; there was also a technical adjustment in decision unit Enhancement (E) 530.

Ms. McCalla stated Fiscal Analysis Division staff recommended all other closing items be closed as recommended by the Governor, with the technical adjustment noted by staff, and with authority for Fiscal Analysis Division staff to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

ASSEMBLYMAN ARMSTRONG MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES CLOSE ALL OTHER CLOSING ITEMS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR, WITH THE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT NOTED BY STAFF, AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE OTHER TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

SENATOR SMITH SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NDE - STANDARDS AND INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT (101-2675)

BUDGET PAGE K-12 EDUCATION-74

Andrea McCalla, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that budget account (BA) 2675, Standards and Instructional Support, was a proposed new budget to support the positions that coordinated the monitoring and technical support of school district and regional training program of standards through the approval of textbooks and other instructional support measures.

Ms. McCalla noted there was one major closing issue in the budget, and that was additional operational funding for the Nevada Ready 21 Technology Plan major budget initiative included in decision unit Enhancement (E) 281. The Governor recommended State General Fund appropriations of \$195,000 in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and \$180,000 in FY 2017 to fund an increase in operational expenses for the Nevada Commission on Educational Technology to administer the Nevada Ready 21 Technology Plan. Inclusive of the recommended increase for the operational funding, the Commission's total recommended operating budget was \$278,073 in FY 2016 and \$263,073 in FY 2017.

Ms. McCalla said the Nevada Ready 21 Technology Plan was a statewide initiative led by the Department of Education and the State Board of Education, in partnership with Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE), local school districts, and public and private organizations, to raise awareness of the state's public school standards. The Nevada Ready 21 Technology Plan was a component of the Nevada Ready! initiative that would integrate technology into the student learning process and use technology to achieve efficiencies throughout the education system.

The Standards and Instructional Support budget, said Ms. McCalla, would fund the operational expenses, including a contracted program director position to oversee the completion of the Nevada Ready 21 Technology Plan. The budget would also fund consultant fees for the Maine Department of Education to assist with contract negotiations, because Maine was the only other state to

create a similar program; contract costs for program mentoring; and other travel and operational expenses.

Ms. McCalla reported that in response to an inquiry by Fiscal Analysis Division staff about whether the Purchasing Division, Department of Administration, could assist with contract negotiations, the Purchasing Division indicated it supported the contract negotiations with the Maine Department of Education to develop the request for proposal (RFP), because it did not have the expertise necessary to fully negotiate that specific type of contract.

Additionally, said Ms. McCalla, the Department of Education provided details of the proposed contract with the One-to-One Institute, which would provide services as a Nevada Ready 21 Technology Plan mentor and would perform the following duties:

- Work directly with the Nevada Ready 21 Technology Plan project director, project manager, and Department staff.
- Provide strategic planning for program rollout.
- Write drafts of legislation.
- Develop RFP to solicit district applications.
- Review district applications.
- Develop RFP to solicit applications for devices and services from vendors.
- Develop administrator and teacher programs.

Ms. McCalla said during the March 17, 2015, budget hearing the Subcommittees questioned the plans for the accountability of the leased or loaned devices to the students for the program, including leasing costs and costs related to losses. The Department indicated that the state of Maine required the school districts to be responsible for the safety of the devices and allowed schools to set local policy.

Ms. McCalla noted that approval of decision unit E-281 should be contingent upon the approval of the grant component of the Nevada Ready 21 Technology Plan recommended in budget account (BA) 2699, Other State Education Programs, in decision units E-294 and E-295, that would be heard at a later time.

Contingent upon the approval of decision units E-294 and E-295 in BA 2699, said Ms. McCalla, the decision was whether the Subcommittees wished to approve State General Fund appropriations totaling \$195,000 in FY 2016 and \$180,000 in FY 2017 to fund an increase in operational expenses for the Commission on Educational Technology to administer the Nevada Ready 21 Technology Plan, as recommended by the Governor in decision unit E-281, with authority for Fiscal Analysis Division staff to make technical adjustments as necessary.

Senator Kieckhefer asked if the Subcommittees reduced the scope of the initiative in BA 2699, whether technical adjustments could be made by Fiscal Analysis Division staff. Ms. McCalla replied that if the program was reduced, adjustments could be made by staff at that time.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES APPROVE STATE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS TOTALING \$195,000 IN FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND \$180,000 IN FISCAL YEAR 2017 TO FUND AN INCREASE IN OPERATIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE COMMISSION ON EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY TO ADMINISTER THE NEVADA READY 21 TECHNOLOGY PLAN AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR IN DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT (E) 281, CONTINGENT UPON THE APPROVAL OF DECISION UNITS ENHANCEMENT (E) 294 AND ENHANCEMENT (E) 295 IN BUDGET ACCOUNT 2699, AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

ASSEMBLYMAN ARMSTRONG SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

Ms. McCalla stated there were four other closing items in BA 2675 that appeared reasonable to Fiscal Analysis Division staff. Staff recommended that all other closing items be closed as recommended by the Governor with authority for Fiscal Analysis Division staff to make technical adjustments as necessary.

ASSEMBLYMAN OSCARSON MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES CLOSE ALL OTHER CLOSING ITEMS IN BUDGET ACCOUNT 2675 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NDE - DEPARTMENT SUPPORT SERVICES (101-2720)
BUDGET PAGE K-12 EDUCATION-78

Andrea McCalla, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that there were two major closing issues in budget account (BA) 2720, Department Support Services.

The first issue was a new accounting assistant position as requested in decision unit Enhancement (E) 226. Ms. McCalla said the Governor recommended reserve reductions of \$39,991 in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and \$49,013 in FY 2017 to fund the personnel and associated operating costs of one new accounting assistant position. The Department indicated the position was needed to provide additional accounting support and assistance in processing federal and state grants. Currently, the Department had two accounting assistant positions assigned to the accounts-payable function. The Department indicated that based on the number of new grants recommended in the budget for K-12 Education, as well as the addition of new federal grants awarded to the Department, the requested position was necessary.

Additionally, said Ms. McCalla, the Department indicated that the position would assist with the increased workload resulting from a change by the Office of the State Controller mandating a seven-digit job number be assigned to all federally funded payments, relating each payment to 1 of 45 federal grants. However, Fiscal Analysis Division staff noted that the requirement to use the coding had only increased the job number from five digits to seven digits.

The Department further indicated the position would assist with higher-level accounting duties such as billing claims, correcting journal vouchers, and approving transactions.

Currently, said Ms. McCalla, a program officer was assigned to higher-level approvals and supervision of the accounting staff. The new position would add an additional layer of supervision for the three accounting staff positions. The Department reported that overtime was not currently being worked by any of the accounting staff to process accounting transactions; however, the Department reported travel claims were being processed in five to ten days rather than the two days mandated by the *State Administrative Manual* (SAM). Fiscal Analysis Division staff noted that a 2-day working turnaround was required when a state-sponsored credit card was used for travel; all other claims were required to be paid within 30 days, according to SAM 2600. Ms. McCalla stated the Department also reported vendor claims were not being processed in a timely manner; however, the Department was unable to provide the supporting details for the backlog.

Based on the workload information and testimony provided, said Ms. McCalla, the recommendation did not appear to Fiscal Analysis Division staff to justify the addition of a new accounting assistant position.

The decision, said Ms. McCalla, was whether the Subcommittees wished to approve a reduction to reserves totaling \$39,991 in FY 2016 and \$49,013 in FY 2017 to fund a new accounting assistant position as recommended by the Governor.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES
NOT APPROVE THE REQUEST IN DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT
(E) 226 FOR A NEW ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT POSITION AS
RECOMMENDED BY FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF.

ASSEMBLYMAN ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

Ms. McCalla stated the second major closing issue was the request in decision unit Enhancement (E) 227 for a new management analyst position. The Governor recommended reserve reductions of \$51,456 in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and \$64,752 in FY 2017 to fund the personnel and associated operating costs of one new management analyst position to assume the contract management duties of the Department. Those duties were previously performed by an administrative assistant position and subsequently divided between three other positions. By eliminating some contract responsibility from the three positions, the Department reported the duties of those positions could expand to include providing biweekly and monthly reports to program teams.

Based on the workload information and testimony provided, said Ms. McCalla, the recommendation and justification of the new management analyst position appeared reasonable to Fiscal Analysis Division staff.

The decision, said Ms. McCalla, was whether the Subcommittees wished to approve a reduction to reserves totaling \$51,456 in FY 2016 and \$64,752 in FY 2017 to fund a new management analyst position as recommended by the Governor in decision unit E-227.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES APPROVE A REDUCTION TO RESERVES TOTALING \$51,456 IN FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND \$64,752 IN FISCAL YEAR 2017 TO FUND A NEW MANAGEMENT ANALYST POSITION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR IN DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT (E) 227.

ASSEMBLYMAN ARMSTRONG SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

Ms. McCalla stated there were seven other closing items in BA 2720 that appeared reasonable to Fiscal Analysis Division staff, and staff recommended that all other closing items be closed as recommended by the Governor, with authority for Fiscal Analysis Division staff to make technical adjustments as necessary.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN KIRKPATRICK MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES CLOSE ALL OTHER CLOSING ITEMS IN BUDGET ACCOUNT 2720 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

SENATOR SMITH SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NDE - ASSESSMENTS AND ACCOUNTABILITY (101-2697)
BUDGET PAGE K-12 EDUCATION-87

Andrea McCalla, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated budget account (BA) 2697, Assessments and Accountability, was the testing budget for the Department of Education.

Ms. McCalla noted there were two major closing issues in the budget. The first was the Smarter Balanced Assessment System as contained in decision unit Enhancement (E) 275. The Governor recommended State General Fund appropriations of \$1,444,237 in each year of the 2015-2017 biennium to complete the Smarter Balanced Assessment System, which was developed by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, a group of 21 states including Nevada, that worked collaboratively to develop an assessment system to align with the Common Core State Standards for mathematics and English language arts.

According to the Department, said Ms. McCalla, the Smarter Balanced Assessment System consisted of a summative assessment that occurred at the end of a course, typically at the end of the school year. The Department estimated there could be cost avoidance from using customized Smarter mathematics and English language acquisition assessments at grades 9 and 10 rather than the end-of-course examinations for those subjects. The Department also estimated the school districts could avoid \$2.6 million in costs by using the Smarter interim assessments in mathematics and English language acquisition at grades 3 through 8. Currently, all school districts independently contracted with various vendors.

Ms. McCalla said in response to questions concerning the future of the Smarter Balanced Assessment, the Department released a statement regarding the recent technical malfunctions occurring with the vendor's computer system and the examinations.

The decision, said Ms. McCalla was whether the Subcommittees wished to approve State General Fund appropriations totaling \$1,444,237 in each year of the 2015-2017 biennium as requested in decision unit Enhancement (E) 275 to complete the Smarter Balanced Assessment System or other assessment system, based on the information provided by the Department.

Chair Hickey noted that regardless of vendor problems, funds would still be needed for end-of-course examinations.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES APPROVE STATE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$1,444,237 IN EACH YEAR OF THE 2015-2017 BIENNIUM AS REQUESTED IN DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT (E) 275 TO COMPLETE THE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM AS DISCUSSED, BASED ON THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

ASSEMBLYMAN ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

Assemblyman Anderson indicated he would second the motion, but believed that the motion should not contain any vendor-related language, and Senator Kieckhefer agreed. Chair Hickey asked Ms. McCalla to restate the motion eliminating the vendor language.

The decision, said Ms. McCalla was whether the Subcommittees wished to approve State General Fund Appropriations totaling \$1,444,237 in each year of the 2015-2017 biennium to complete the assessment discussed, based on the information provided by the Department.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

Ms. McCalla stated the next major closing item was the request for a new management analyst position in decision unit Enhancement (E) 288. The Governor recommended State General Fund appropriations of \$50,661 in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and \$64,707 in FY 2017 for a new management analyst

position to develop and maintain a system to manage workflow of data inquiries from internal and external stakeholders. The position would be located in either Carson City or Las Vegas.

Ms. McCalla said the Department of Education indicated the proposed new management analyst position would document the processes related to assessment development and maintenance; accountability; design maintenance; and use of the System of Accountability Information in Nevada (SAIN) to inform the Department, the state, and the public of student outcomes related to specific initiatives. In addition, the position would build a comprehensive workflow to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of operations of the state assessment system, the data collection and reporting system, and accountability activities. The Department advised that the proposed management analyst position would work with school districts to review school improvement performance plans.

Ms. McCalla stated the Department had not submitted supporting details concerning the workload or other measures of need for the position, and based on the information and testimony provided, the recommendation did not appear to be reasonably justified to Fiscal Analysis Division staff.

The decision, said Ms. McCalla, was whether the Subcommittees wished to approve State General Fund appropriations totaling \$50,661 in FY 2016 and \$64,707 in FY 2017 for one new management analyst position as requested in decision unit Enhancement (E) 288 to manage workflow of data inquiries from internal and external stakeholders.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES
NOT APPROVE THE NEW MANAGEMENT ANALYST POSITION
REQUESTED IN DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT (E) 288
AS RECOMMENDED BY FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN KIRKPATRICK SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for
the vote.)

Ms. McCalla stated there were ten other closing items in budget account (BA) 2697. Decision unit E-299 had been eliminated from the budget via a budget amendment. All other closing items appeared reasonable to Fiscal Analysis Division staff with the inclusion of the budget amendment.

Ms. McCalla said Fiscal Analysis Division staff recommended that all other closing items be closed as recommended by the Governor, inclusive of budget amendment A150542697, which eliminated decision unit E-299 and reduced State General Fund appropriations by \$500,000 in FY 2017, with authority for Fiscal Analysis Division staff to make technical adjustments as necessary.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES CLOSE ALL OTHER CLOSING ITEMS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR, INCLUSIVE OF BUDGET AMENDMENT A150542697, WHICH ELIMINATED DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT (E) 299 AND REDUCED STATE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS BY \$500,000 IN FISCAL YEAR 2017, AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

ASSEMBLYMAN ARMSTRONG SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NDE - EDUCATOR LICENSURE (101-2705)
BUDGET PAGE K-12 EDUCATION-98

Andrea McCalla, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated there were two major closing issues in budget account (BA) 2705, Educator Licensure.

The first major issue, said Ms. McCalla, was the study of educator licensing requirements as requested in decision unit Enhancement (E) 241. The Governor recommended a reserve reduction of \$60,000 in fiscal year (FY) 2016 to fund a study of the current licensing requirements for educators in Nevada. Specifically, the Department of Education indicated the study would entail

a comprehensive review of Chapter 391 of the *Nevada Administrative Code*, established in 1981 by the State Board of Education that related to licensure of educational personnel. According to the Department, the goal of the study was to obtain recommendations regarding how to align licensing laws and regulations with the elements of the Nevada Educator Performance Framework to make them more current, cohesive, and legally defensible.

Ms. McCalla said the Department indicated that the cost of the study was based on a proposal that ranged between \$41,000 and \$74,000 received from The New Teacher Project [now called TNTP] for review and revision of licensure to align with the Nevada Educator Performance Framework. The Department also contacted other national offices to estimate the needed funding level. Based on testimony and information provided by the Department, decision unit E-241 appeared reasonable to Fiscal Analysis Division staff.

The decision, said Ms. McCalla, was whether the Subcommittees wished to approve decision unit E-241, the request for a reserve reduction of \$60,000 in FY 2016 to fund a study of the current licensing requirements for educators in Nevada as recommended by the Governor.

SENATOR SMITH MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES APPROVE
DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT (E) 241, THE REQUEST FOR
A RESERVE REDUCTION OF \$60,000 IN FISCAL YEAR 2016 TO
FUND A STUDY OF THE CURRENT LICENSING REQUIREMENTS
FOR EDUCATORS IN NEVADA AS RECOMMENDED BY THE
GOVERNOR IN DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT (E) 241.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BENITEZ-THOMPSON SECONDED THE
MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblywoman Swank and
Senator Roberson were not present for the vote.)

The second major closing issue, said Ms. McCalla, was the replacement of the educator licensure system, decision unit Enhancement (E) 550. The Governor recommended reserve reductions of \$41,105 in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and \$217,527 in FY 2017 for the Department of Education to purchase and customize an automated educator licensure system that would allow for the electronic submittal of teacher licensure applications and fingerprints. The total cost of the project would be \$423,054, with completion of the project in

FY 2018. The technology information request (TIR) was approved by the Division of Enterprise Information Technology Services (EITS), Department of Administration, for the customized off-the-shelf system with vendor-managed hosting.

Currently, said Ms. McCalla, the system was supported by a database that was developed in-house, known as NDE ED-85, that maintained basic licensing information that was collected manually. The age of the current database system was unknown. The Department of Education indicated that the goal of the new system would be to develop a customized licensing system that would phase in other modules over time.

Ms. McCalla noted that the Department identified the following concerns associated with use of the existing NDE ED-85 educator licensure system:

- Prompt customer service.
- Timely processing of licensing applications.
- Efficient procedures for minimal compliance with laws.
- Daily reconciliation of revenue resources.
- Integrity of raw data for reporting.

Ms. McCalla said the Department indicated that the replacement of the licensure system would allow it to accept online licensure applications and payments; expedite background check results; provide real-time statistical data; and allow for fiscal reconciliation. The Department also believed that the overall process would be more user-friendly.

The Department indicated that the \$41,105 in FY 2016 would be used for planning and administration costs, said Ms. McCalla, and the \$217,527 in FY 2017 would be used for development of system requirements. Ongoing maintenance costs were estimated at \$26,100 in FY 2018 and \$51,100 for each following year. Ms. McCalla noted that the cost estimates for the project were developed using the licensing system purchased by the Real Estate Division, Department of Business and Industry. That licensing system was completed between 2005 and 2009 and might not reflect the current price of such a system.

Ms. McCalla said that to obtain more recent information, Fiscal Analysis Division staff worked with the Department to conduct a survey of other states and jurisdictions affiliated with educator licensure to compare systems used by those states with requirements of the Nevada Educator Licensure System. The Department survey yielded 24 state responses; however, none of the responders included fiscal information. Ms. McCalla said the Department also completed a request for information (RFI), which yielded four vendor responses that provided cost estimates between \$400,000 and \$1 million to complete the software system replacement.

Based on the updated cost estimate, said Ms. McCalla, the Office of Educator Licensure indicated that the funding recommendation for the technology investment request (TIR) should be increased by an additional \$250,000 in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and \$500,000 in FY 2017, bringing the total recommended funding to \$291,105 in FY 2016 and \$717,527 in FY 2017. That represented a 290 percent increase over the total funding recommended by the Governor of \$258,632 for the original cost estimate for the TIR project.

Ms. McCalla noted that Fiscal Analysis Division staff had concerns regarding decision unit E-550. The range of costs was wide, and uncertainty remained that even with the requested funding increase, the approved funding might not be sufficient to complete the project. While Fiscal Analysis Division staff did not have a problem with the TIR project itself, it appeared the cost to replace the educator licensure system was not firm enough for staff to support at the present time. Also, as previously discussed in the prior decision unit, if approved, the licensing requirements for teachers in Nevada could change; therefore, it might be appropriate to delay the project until the study was completed and the Department was able to provide a more accurate estimate of the project cost.

Additionally, said Ms. McCalla, Fiscal Analysis Division staff recommended that the Department of Education approach the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) to receive approval to proceed with the TIR project once the study was complete and costs had been refined.

The decision, said Ms. McCalla, was whether the Subcommittees wished to not approve reserve reductions totaling \$41,105 in FY 2016 and \$217,527 in FY 2017 in decision unit Enhancement (E) 550 for the Department to purchase and customize an automated educator licensure system at the present time. Also, she asked whether the Subcommittees wished to issue a letter of intent

directing the Department to approach IFC to seek approval of the educator licensure system TIR project after the Department had developed firm cost estimates and could demonstrate the ability to fund the project while maintaining a sufficient reserve level.

Alex Haartz, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, noted that while the Department had informally requested the increase, the Fiscal Analysis Division had not received a budget amendment regarding budget account (BA) 2705 requesting an increase in funding.

Senator Kieckhefer stated there was a significant lack of clarity regarding replacement of the licensure system, and the outcome of the study might influence the future purchase. He believed that improving the licensure system was an item of significant importance, but he opined that funding the replacement system was inappropriate at the present time.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES NOT APPROVE RESERVE REDUCTIONS TOTALING \$41,105 IN FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND \$217,527 IN FISCAL YEAR 2017 IN DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT (E) 550 FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PURCHASE AND CUSTOMIZE AN AUTOMATED EDUCATOR LICENSURE SYSTEM AT THE PRESENT TIME, BUT ISSUE A LETTER OF INTENT DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT TO APPROACH THE INTERIM FINANCE COMMITTEE TO SEEK APPROVAL OF THE EDUCATOR LICENSURE SYSTEM TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT REQUEST PROJECT WHEN THE DEPARTMENT HAD DEVELOPED FIRM COST ESTIMATES AND COULD DEMONSTRATE THE ABILITY TO FUND THE PROJECT WHILE MAINTAINING A SUFFICIENT RESERVE LEVEL.

ASSEMBLYMAN KIRNER SECONDED THE MOTION.

Assemblywoman Kirkpatrick believed the motion gave the Department time to determine the best system for use in Nevada and the cost of the system. She felt it was important to move teachers through the licensure process so the Department could receive the information regarding background checks in a timely manner. Assemblywoman Kirkpatrick hoped the Department would bring a plan back to the Legislature that could be expedited.

Chair Hickey believed that the licensure process was extremely important because of the shortage of teachers throughout the state.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

Ms. McCalla stated there were three other closing items in BA 2705 that appeared reasonable to Fiscal Analysis Division staff, and staff recommended closing all other closing items as recommended by the Governor, with authority for Fiscal Analysis Division staff to make technical adjustments as necessary.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES CLOSE ALL OTHER CLOSING ITEMS IN BUDGET ACCOUNT 2705 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

ASSEMBLYMAN ARMSTRONG SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NDE - EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS (101-2612)
BUDGET PAGE K-12 EDUCATION-105

Andrea McCalla, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated there were two major closing issues in budget account (BA) 2612, Educator Effectiveness.

Ms. McCalla said the first issue was the request in decision unit Enhancement (E) 285 for a new education programs professional position. As part of the Great Teaching and Leading program, the Governor recommended State General Fund appropriations totaling \$104,240 in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and \$120,822 in FY 2017 to fund a new education programs professional position and associated operating costs effective October 1, 2015. Of that amount, \$30,000 was recommended in each year of the biennium to fund an external evaluation of the new program.

Ms. McCalla stated that during the budget hearing on March 3, 2015, the Department of Education testified that although there was another education programs professional position in the budget account, that position focused on Title IIA [of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act] federal programs, and the new position would focus solely on the new Great Teaching and Leading program.

The decision, said Ms. McCalla, was whether the Subcommittees wished to approve State General Fund appropriations totaling \$104,240 in FY 2016 and \$120,822 in FY 2017 to fund one new education programs professional position and associated costs, including \$30,000 in each year of the biennium for an external evaluation of the Great Teaching and Leading program, as recommended by the Governor in decision unit E-285.

ASSEMBLYMAN KIRNER MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES APPROVE STATE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS TOTALING \$104,240 IN FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND \$120,822 IN FISCAL YEAR 2017 TO FUND ONE NEW EDUCATION PROGRAMS PROFESSIONAL POSITION AND ASSOCIATED COSTS, INCLUDING \$30,000 IN EACH YEAR OF THE BIENNIUM FOR AN EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF THE GREAT TEACHING AND LEADING PROGRAM, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR IN DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT (E) 285.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

Ms. McCalla said the next major closing issue was the request in decision unit E-286 for a new administrative assistant position. The Governor recommended State General Fund appropriations totaling \$37,031 in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and \$45,925 in FY 2017 to fund the personnel and associated operating costs of a new administrative assistant position for the Office of Educator Effectiveness.

According to Ms. McCalla, in response to Fiscal Analysis Division staff's inquiry regarding whether there was a backlog of work related to the new Educator Effectiveness Office, the Department of Education confirmed that there was a backlog because current administrative support was provided by staff from the Office of Educator Licensure. Because of that, tasks and projects

from the Office of Educator Effectiveness were completed when the workload for the Office of Educator Licensure was lighter. The Department reported that examples of work partially or not completed included travel reimbursements, policy and procedural manual updates, general filing and reporting, composition and posting of meeting minutes, meeting scheduling and preparation, and website updates. Based on the testimony and information provided by the Department, decision unit E-286 appeared reasonable to Fiscal Analysis Division staff.

The decision, said Ms. McCalla, was whether the Subcommittees wished to approve State General Fund appropriations totaling \$37,031 in FY 2016 and \$45,925 in FY 2017 to fund one new administrative assistant position and associated costs as recommended by the Governor in decision unit E-286.

SENATOR SMITH MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES APPROVE STATE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS TOTALING \$37,031 IN FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND \$45,925 IN FISCAL YEAR 2017 TO FUND ONE NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITION AND ASSOCIATED COSTS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR IN DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT (E) 286.

ASSEMBLYMAN ARMSTRONG SECONDED THE MOTION.

Assemblyman Kirner noted that many positions were being requested by the Department, and he wondered where the additional staff would be located.

Dale Erquiaga, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Department of Education, stated that the Department actually had three facilities where staff would be located, and the positions requested in BA 2612 would be housed in Las Vegas. There was additional space in that building, and the Department was currently working with the Buildings and Grounds Section, State Public Works Division, Department of Administration, for a no-cost impact expansion. Mr. Erquiaga stated the Department also had space available in two offices in Carson City and a satellite office. He assured the Subcommittees that the Department has sufficient office space for all new employees.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

Ms. McCalla stated there were four other closing items in BA 2612, and the recommendations appeared reasonable; therefore, Fiscal Analysis Division staff recommended that all other closing items be closed as recommended by the Governor, with authority for Fiscal Analysis Division staff to make technical adjustments as necessary.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES
CLOSE ALL OTHER CLOSING ITEMS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE
GOVERNOR AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF
TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN KIRKPATRICK SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for
the vote.)

EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NDE - GEAR UP (101-2678)
BUDGET PAGE K-12 EDUCATION-113

Andrea McCalla, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that there was one major closing issue in budget account (BA) 2678, GEAR UP.

Ms. McCalla said decision unit Enhancement (E) 225 requested one new position. The Governor recommended federal grant funding of \$101,017 in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and \$98,991 in FY 2017 to fund the personnel and associated operating costs of a new education programs professional position for the federal Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Program (GEAR UP) program to support increased GEAR UP activities.

Ms. McCalla noted that in an October 22, 2014, letter to the Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Education recommended that in addition to the existing three GEAR UP program positions, an assistant program director position would be of considerable benefit to the Nevada GEAR UP grant program. Ms. McCalla indicated that decision unit E-225 appeared reasonable to Fiscal Analysis Division staff.

The decision, said Ms. McCalla, was whether the Subcommittees wished to approve federal GEAR UP program funding totaling \$101,017 in FY 2016 and \$98,991 in FY 2017 to fund a new education programs professional position and associated costs, as recommended by the Governor in decision unit E-225.

Chair Hickey noted that there was a bill moving forward regarding linking high school counseling with postsecondary options, and he asked whether that would overlap with the GEAR UP program.

Dale Erquiaga, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Department of Education, replied there were actually two pieces of legislation dealing with high school graduation planning and exit, but there would be no overlap with the GEAR UP program. However, those bills would help in identifying eligible students, and the outcome would be positive.

ASSEMBLYMAN ARMSTRONG MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES APPROVE FEDERAL GEAR UP PROGRAM FUNDING TOTALING \$101,017 IN FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND \$98,991 IN FISCAL YEAR 2017 TO FUND A NEW EDUCATION PROGRAMS PROFESSIONAL POSITION AND ASSOCIATED COSTS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR IN DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT (E) 225.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblymen Kirner and Oscarson and Senator Roberson were not present for the vote.)

Ms. McCalla said there was one other closing item in BA 2678 that appeared reasonable. Fiscal Analysis Division staff recommended that the other closing item be approved as recommended by the Governor, with authority for Fiscal Analysis Division staff to make technical adjustments as necessary.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES CLOSE THE OTHER CLOSING ITEM IN BUDGET ACCOUNT 2678 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

ASSEMBLYMAN ARMSTRONG SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblymen Kirner and Oscarson and Senator Roberson were not present for the vote.)

EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NDE - PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT (101-2706)

BUDGET PAGE K-12 EDUCATION-118

Andrea McCalla, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that in conjunction with the proposed reorganization of the Department of Education, the Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement, established pursuant to *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 385.630, and the Advisory Council on Parental Involvement and Family Engagement, established pursuant to *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 385.610, would be included in budget account (BA) 2706.

Ms. McCalla indicated there was one major closing issue in the budget, which was the funding source change and transfer of the antibullying program. In decision unit Enhancement (E) 490, the Governor recommended the elimination of grant authority in the amount of \$111,903 in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and \$115,321 in FY 2017 for revenues and costs associated with the grant-funded antibullying program. The Department of Education advised that the grant funding was scheduled to expire effective June 30, 2015.

Because of the expiring grant funding for the antibullying program, said Ms. McCalla, the Governor recommended changing the funding source from grant funds to State General Fund appropriations in decision unit E-350. The Governor recommended new State General Fund appropriations of \$102,060 in FY 2016 and \$105,480 in FY 2017 for the continued support of the antibullying program, including the education programs professional position.

The decision, said Ms. McCalla, was whether the Subcommittees wished to approve the elimination of grant authority in the amount of \$111,903 in FY 2016 and \$115,321 in FY 2017 for revenues and costs associated with the grant-funded antibullying program, inclusive of the education programs professional position as recommended by the Governor in decision unit E-490, and approve State General Fund appropriations of \$102,060 in FY 2016 and \$105,480 in FY 2017 for the continued support of the antibullying program, inclusive of the education programs professional position as recommended by the Governor in decision unit E-350.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BENITEZ-THOMPSON MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES APPROVE THE ELIMINATION OF GRANT AUTHORITY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$111,903 IN FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND \$115,321 IN FISCAL YEAR 2017 FOR REVENUES AND COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE GRANT-FUNDED ANTIBULLYING PROGRAM, INCLUSIVE OF THE EDUCATION PROGRAMS PROFESSIONAL POSITION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR IN DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT (E) 490, AND APPROVE NEW STATE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$102,060 IN FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND \$105,480 IN FISCAL YEAR 2017 FOR THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE ANTIBULLYING PROGRAM, INCLUSIVE OF THE EDUCATION PROGRAMS PROFESSIONAL POSITION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR IN DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT (E) 350.

SENATOR SMITH SECONDED THE MOTION.

Senator Kieckhefer asked about the relationship between the antibullying program and the Safe and Respectful Learning Environment Office, which provided funding for a social worker or other licensed mental health worker for schools. He wondered whether the block grant funding to local school districts for social workers or other licensed mental health workers would be distributed through the antibullying program.

Ms. McCalla explained that the position in question was only for the antibullying program that was currently funded by grant funding. The request in the budget was to fund the program through the State General Fund. The antibullying program and the Safe and Respectful Learning Environment Office were separate.

Senator Kieckhefer opined that some programs could be combined.

Dale Erquiaga, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Department of Education, explained that the staff position for the antibullying program was moving into the Safe and Respectful Learning Environment Office. The bill currently before the Senate Committee on Finance contemplated a director of that office, who would oversee the grants program, which would be considered at a later date. Mr. Erquiaga said the programs worked together, and the position was critical to the overall antibullying effort. He noted that if the social worker program were not approved and Senate Bill 504 (1st Reprint) did not pass, the current position

would continue doing necessary work, even though it was listed in a different budget account.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblyman Oscarson and Senator Roberson were not present for the vote.)

Ms. McCalla stated that decision unit E-972 recommended a transfer of State General Fund appropriations totaling \$112,060 in FY 2016 and \$115,480 in FY 2017 and transfers from the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Department of Health and Human Services, of \$10,000 in each fiscal year from budget account (BA) 2706 to the Student and School Support budget (BA 2712) for the support of one education programs professional position and associated operating costs related to the antibullying program.

In response to an inquiry from Fiscal Analysis Division staff regarding the funding transfer from the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of \$10,000, the Department of Education indicated that the \$10,000 was grant funding designated for travel and operating costs for an education programs professional position assigned to the antibullying program. Ms. McCalla said based on the testimony and information provided, decision unit E-972 appeared reasonable.

The decision, said Ms. McCalla, was whether the Subcommittees wished to approve the transfer of the antibullying program, including an education programs professional position and associated costs for the program in the amount of \$112,060 in FY 2016 and \$115,480 in FY 2017 from BA 2706 to the Student and School Support budget (BA 2712), as recommended by the Governor in decision unit E-972, with authority for Fiscal Analysis Division staff to make technical adjustments as necessary.

SENATOR SMITH MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF THE ANTIBULLYING PROGRAM, INCLUDING AN EDUCATION PROGRAMS PROFESSIONAL POSITION AND ASSOCIATED COSTS FOR THE PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$112,060 IN FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND \$115,480 IN FISCAL YEAR 2017, FROM BUDGET ACCOUNT 2706, PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT, TO BUDGET ACCOUNT 2712, STUDENT AND SCHOOL SUPPORT, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR IN DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT (E) 972, AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS

DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

ASSEMBLYMAN ARMSTRONG SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblyman Oscarson and Senator Roberson were not present for the vote.)

Ms. McCalla stated there were five other closing items in BA 2706 that appeared reasonable to Fiscal Analysis Division staff. Staff recommended that the Subcommittees close all other closing items as recommended by the Governor, with authority for Fiscal Analysis Division staff to make technical adjustments as necessary.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES CLOSE ALL OTHER CLOSING ITEMS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

ASSEMBLYMAN ARMSTRONG SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblyman Oscarson and Senator Roberson were not present for the vote.)

EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NDE - OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT (101-2709)

BUDGET PAGE K-12 EDUCATION-126

Andrea McCalla, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated the Office of Early Learning and Development, Division of Student Achievement, Department of Education, managed and administered programs for at-risk children who were ready for kindergarten.

Ms. McCalla indicated there were two major closing items in budget account (BA) 2709. The first item was the new Nevada Ready! High-Quality Preschool Development Grant in decision unit Enhancement (E) 275. The Governor recommended federal grant funds of \$8,718,922 in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and \$11,940,607 in FY 2017 and State General Fund appropriations of \$4,499,285 in FY 2016 and \$5,823,405 in FY 2017 for the new Nevada Ready!

High Quality Preschool Development Grant to support the improvement and expansion of preschool for children from low- and moderate-income families.

Per Ms. McCalla, a state match component totaling \$22.8 million over the four-year period of the grant was also required. The grant allowed receipt of federal funds prior to the state match funds, as long as the match funding was received by the end of the calendar year. Nevada currently provided a state-funded prekindergarten (Pre-K) program that offered a minimum of 10 hours per week of instruction for children enrolled in the program. With the addition of the new federal grant funding and matching State General Fund appropriations, preschool instruction time would be increased to a minimum of 25 hours per week for 2,990 children.

Ms. McCalla stated the Department indicated that six new positions would be needed to administer the federal grant funds. The total projected cost of the positions was \$1.7 million over the four-year period. The Department stated the positions would be funded with approximately 34 percent State General Fund appropriations and 66 percent federal grant funds. Based on the information provided by the agency, decision unit E-275 appeared reasonable to Fiscal Analysis Division staff.

The decision, said Ms. McCalla, was whether the Subcommittees wished to approve federal grant funds of \$8,718,922 in FY 2016 and \$11,940,607 in FY 2017 and State General Fund appropriations of \$4,499,285 in FY 2016 and \$5,823,405 in FY 2017, as matching funds for the new federal Nevada Ready! High-Quality Preschool Development grant, including the funding for six new positions as recommended by the Governor in decision unit E-275.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES APPROVE FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS OF \$8,718,922 IN FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND \$11,940,607 IN FISCAL YEAR 2017, AND STATE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$4,499,285 IN FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND \$5,823,405 IN FISCAL YEAR 2017, AS MATCHING FUNDS FOR THE NEW FEDERAL NEVADA READY! HIGH-QUALITY PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT, INCLUDING THE FUNDING FOR SIX NEW POSITIONS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR IN DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT (E) 275.

ASSEMBLYMAN ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

Assemblywoman Kirkpatrick asked about the expectation for the state and whether the grant funding would be ongoing.

Dale Erquiaga, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Department of Education, stated that Fiscal Analysis Division staff had outlined the four-year life cycle of the grant funding. The grant contained a very specific programmatic deliverable—the number of students and the quality of programs—and it was the Department's belief that the positions would be eliminated when the grant had run its course. However, said Mr. Erquiaga, the Department would submit the plan for a state program to the Legislature in 2017 or 2019 that would follow the Nevada Ready! High-Quality Preschool Development Grant program. It was not likely that the Department could reapply for the current grant funding because it was a development grant. However, under the current operating framework of the U.S. Department of Education, there was another tier of grant funding above development grants. The development phase of grant funding was for states like Nevada, which were just beginning to expand work in preschool programs.

Assemblywoman Kirkpatrick wanted to make that point because once the program was in place, the state could not expect a good outcome if the program ceased to exist after four years. It was also better for the employees to be aware that the positions might be temporary.

Chair Hickey questioned what would occur with the education programs professional supervisor position when the grant funding ran out.

Mr. Erquiaga explained that the education programs professional supervisor position was key to providing information to parents and families about the availability of the new preschool seats. He said as the industry that provided the more high-quality preschool grew in Nevada, it would be able to shoulder more of that burden.

Mr. Erquiaga noted that decision unit E-276 was a feasibility study for preschool social impact bonds and the funding linked to the positions requested in decision unit E-275. The grant would expand if the Department was able to locate alternate sources. Social impact bonding was actually an effort being launched today in Las Vegas, with the announcement of three grants from the University of Utah Policy Innovation Lab, Third Sector Capital Partners, and Harvard University around the pay-for-success model in Nevada. Mr. Erquiaga said the

pay-for-success payments would allow the programs to grow without State General Fund appropriations.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson asked whether the eligible subgrantees that had already been identified would receive federal grant funding or whether the funding would come from the State General Fund.

Mr. Erquiaga said the state matching dollars were required for the Department of Education to release the federal grant funding to the subgrantees. Those agreements had been completed and were ready once the Legislature approved the budget. The programs would start up by August 2015 in the five identified counties.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson asked about the mix of subgrantees because it appeared the funding could go to nonprofits, charter schools, faith-based private entities, and public school districts.

Mr. Erquiaga replied that in the larger urban districts, the Department relied on nonprofits because of space: Clark County School District did not have preschool classrooms. In the rural districts, however, the Pre-K seats were within the public schools.

Ms. McCalla restated the motion for the Subcommittees, and Chair Hickey called for a vote.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblyman Kirner voted no. Assemblyman Oscarson and Senator Roberson were not present for the vote.)

Ms. McCalla said the next major closing issue was the feasibility study for preschool social impact bonds in decision unit Enhancement (E) 276. The Governor recommended State General Fund appropriations of \$125,000 in fiscal year (FY) 2016 to conduct a feasibility study for preschool social impact bonds which, according to the Department, were specific types of financing that leveraged private investment to support high-impact social programs.

Per Ms. McCalla, the Department indicated that Harvard Kennedy School and Third Sector Capital Partners had committed to share the cost of the feasibility study totaling \$100,000, which required a \$25,000 funding match from the state. Accordingly, that would reduce the cost to the state for the feasibility

study from \$125,000 to \$25,000. Ms. McCalla noted that budget amendment A150532709 was submitted to reduce decision unit E-276 from \$125,000 to \$25,000.

The decision, said Ms. McCalla, was whether the Subcommittees wished to approve a State General Fund appropriation, which was reduced through budget amendment A150532709 from \$125,000 to \$25,000 in FY 2016, for state matching funds to conduct a feasibility study for preschool social impact bond program in decision unit E-276.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES APPROVE A STATE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION, WHICH WAS REDUCED THROUGH BUDGET AMENDMENT A150532709 FROM \$125,000 TO \$25,000 IN FISCAL YEAR 2016, FOR STATE MATCHING FUNDS TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE PRESCHOOL SOCIAL IMPACT BOND PROGRAM IN DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT (E) 276.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN KIRKPATRICK SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblyman Oscarson and Senator Roberson were not present for the vote.)

Ms. McCalla stated there were seven other closing items in BA 2709 and all recommendations appeared reasonable. Fiscal Analysis Division staff recommended all other closing items be closed as recommended by the Governor, with authority for Fiscal Analysis Division staff to make technical adjustments as necessary.

SENATOR SMITH MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES CLOSE ALL OTHER CLOSING ITEMS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

ASSEMBLYMAN ARMSTRONG SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblyman Oscarson and Senator Roberson were not present for the vote.)

EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NDE - STUDENT AND SCHOOL SUPPORT (101-2712)

BUDGET PAGE K-12 EDUCATION-135

Andrea McCalla, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that budget account (BA) 2712, Student and School Support, provided for the distribution and administration of federal Title I [of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act] assistance to Nevada schools for economically and educationally disadvantaged students.

Ms. McCalla noted there were five major closing issues in BA 2712. The first was an expansion of participation in advanced placement courses and examinations in high schools. In decision unit Enhancement (E) 290, the Governor recommended State General Fund appropriations of \$525,875 in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and \$662,750 in FY 2017 to fund an expansion of student participation in the advanced placement courses and examinations in high schools.

Ms. McCalla said in FY 2014, the Department of Education received \$328,996 from the federal Advanced Placement Test Fee program, which awarded grants to eligible state education agencies to assist the agencies in paying all or a portion of advanced placement test fees on behalf of eligible low-income students who were enrolled in advanced placement courses and planned to take advanced placement tests.

Fiscal Analysis Division staff noted that \$200,000 in each year of the 2015-2017 biennium from the request was designated for professional development for the advanced placement courses and examinations program. Ms. McCalla stated that calculated to 38 percent of the request in FY 2016 and 30 percent of the request for FY 2017.

The decision, said Ms. McCalla, was whether the Subcommittees wished to approve State General Fund appropriations of \$200,000 in each year of the 2015-2017 biennium to fund professional development for teachers for advanced placement courses and examinations in high schools, as recommended by the Governor in decision unit E-290.

Chair Hickey indicated there was pending legislation pertaining to students in the gifted and talented category and advanced placement courses. He asked whether those programs meshed together.

Dale Erquiaga, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Department of Education, said the programs were not the same and did not mesh together.

Chair Hickey asked about the professional development for teachers to broaden the advanced placement program; he believed that those professionals working with the advanced placement program should already be skilled in the courses and examinations.

Mr. Erquiaga explained that the expansion of professional development would allow the Department of Education to offer more courses: not all teachers had the background to teach an advanced placement class. There were several components to the budget, and some funding would pay the test fees for additional students—typically minority students—and the \$200,000 was to recruit more advanced placement teachers in more subjects within the schools.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson noted the funding would cover test fees for students, and she asked how many additional students or advanced placement classrooms the money would fund.

Mr. Erquiaga said the goal of BA 2712 was to double the participation rate among the identified populations.

Assemblywoman Kirkpatrick said there had been much discussion with Western Nevada College (WNC), Economic/Workforce Development, about the number of students who signed up for classes but failed to take the test because of the cost. Assemblywoman Kirkpatrick believed the appropriation would help streamline the process for students to enter into career-readiness programs. She noted that every school district she had contacted indicated that the advanced placement program was a top priority.

Mr. Erquiaga said that while he could not speak for the school districts, Assemblywoman Kirkpatrick was right about the workforce development connection and future readiness; he noted that the WNC program was great for high school students and helped get them on a college or career track.

Chair Hickey asked Ms. McCalla to restate the motion including all items in decision unit E-290.

The decision, said Ms. McCalla, was whether the Subcommittees wished to approve State General Fund appropriations of \$200,000 in each year of the 2015-2017 biennium to fund professional development for teachers for advanced placement courses and examinations in high schools; approve State General Fund appropriations of \$325,875 in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and \$462,750 in FY 2017 to fund an expansion of student participation in the advanced placement courses and examinations in high schools as recommended by the Governor.

ASSEMBLYMAN ARMSTRONG MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES APPROVE STATE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$200,000 IN EACH YEAR OF THE 2015-2017 BIENNIUM TO FUND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS FOR ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES AND EXAMINATIONS IN HIGH SCHOOLS AND APPROVE STATE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$325,875 IN FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND \$462,750 IN FISCAL YEAR 2017 TO FUND AN EXPANSION OF STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN THE ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES AND EXAMINATIONS IN HIGH SCHOOLS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR IN DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT (E) 290.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

The next major closing issue, said Ms. McCalla, was new positions and funding for the Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment in decision unit Enhancement (E) 279. Ms. McCalla noted that passage and approval of Senate Bill 504 (1st Reprint) by the 2015 Legislature would create the Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment within the Department of Education.

Ms. McCalla stated the Governor recommended State General Fund appropriations of \$300,000 in each year of the 2015-2017 biennium to create the office within the Department, including one new unclassified education

programs director position, one administrative assistant position, and related costs. In addition to funding the two positions, funding was recommended by the Governor to include \$30,000 in each year of the biennium for an external evaluation of the Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment in fiscal year (FY) 2017. Ms. McCalla said the recommended funding would be used to support the statutory provisions related to the prevention of bullying: *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 388.1325; NRS 388.1341; and NRS 388.1342.

Ms. McCalla noted that the 2013 Legislature passed Senate Bill No. 427 of the 77th Session (2013), which added the provisions governing bullying, and the Department submitted a zero fiscal note saying the bill would have no fiscal effect on the Department.

According to Ms. McCalla, the Department justified establishment of the position as unclassified by indicating the position could be filled more quickly, could be held more accountable than a classified position, and could be terminated more quickly if necessary. The Department further noted that there were no other education program director positions reporting directly to the Superintendent of Public Instruction. If the position was approved as an unclassified director position, the salary would be set in the Unclassified Pay Bill.

Ms. McCalla noted that \$30,000 was recommended for an external evaluation; however, in response to questions from Fiscal Analysis Division staff, the Department indicated that the \$30,000 was included in error in decision unit E-279 and requested that the funds be transferred to the Operating budget category. The Department did not provide specific details justifying the need for additional funds for the Operating budget category; therefore, said Ms. McCalla, Fiscal Analysis Division staff made a technical adjustment to remove \$30,000 in each year of the 2015-2017 biennium for the external evaluation.

Ms. McCalla said based on the information provided by the Department and with the technical adjustment noted by Fiscal Analysis Division staff, decision unit E-279 appeared reasonable to Fiscal Analysis Division staff.

The decision, said Ms. McCalla, was whether the Subcommittees wished to establish the new education programs director position as an unclassified position.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES ESTABLISH THE NEW EDUCATION PROGRAMS DIRECTOR POSITION IN DECISION UNIT E-279 AS AN UNCLASSIFIED POSITION.

ASSEMBLYMAN ARMSTRONG SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chair Hickey noted that the Subcommittees did not have a quorum and declared the meeting in recess at 9:54 a.m. The Chair reconvened the hearing at 10 a.m., at which time a quorum was present.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY ON THE ASSEMBLY SIDE.

THE MOTION FAILED ON THE SENATE SIDE. (Senator Smith voted no. Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

The next decision, said Ms. McCalla, was whether the Subcommittees wished to approve State General Fund appropriations of \$270,000 in each year of the 2015-2017 biennium to create the new Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment within the Department of Education, including one new unclassified or classified education programs director position and one administrative assistant position and related costs, inclusive of the technical adjustment to remove funding for the external evaluation in the amount of \$30,000 in each year of the biennium included in error, with authority for Fiscal Analysis Division staff to make any needed technical adjustments as necessary.

ASSEMBLYMAN ARMSTRONG MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES APPROVE STATE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$270,000 IN EACH YEAR OF THE 2015-2017 BIENNIUM TO CREATE THE NEW OFFICE FOR A SAFE AND RESPECTFUL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, INCLUDING ONE NEW UNCLASSIFIED OR CLASSIFIED EDUCATION PROGRAMS DIRECTOR POSITION AND ONE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITION AND RELATED COSTS, INCLUSIVE OF THE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT TO REMOVE FUNDING FOR THE EXTERNAL EVALUATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,000 IN EACH YEAR OF THE BIENNIUM INCLUDED IN ERROR, AND AUTHORIZE

FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE ANY NEEDED
TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for
the vote.)

Ms. McCalla stated that the next major closing issue was new positions for the Victory schools and underperforming schools turnaround programs in decision unit Enhancement (E) 278. The Governor recommended State General Fund appropriations of \$176,850 in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and \$216,936 in FY 2017 to fund two new education programs professional positions and associated operating costs to support the pilot program for underperforming schools designated as Victory schools in the underperforming schools turnaround program. The Governor's recommendation also included \$30,000 in each year of the biennium for an annual external evaluation of the Victory schools program.

Ms. McCalla stated that Senate Bill (S.B.) 432 (1st Reprint), which was heard by the Senate Committee on Finance on April 30, 2015, would fund the new Victory schools program. Additionally, Senate Bill (S.B.) 77 heard on March 26, 2015, by the Senate Committee on Education would implement the new underperforming schools turnaround program. The Governor proposed a major budget initiative to create the new Victory schools grant program to provide additional services to underperforming elementary, middle, and high schools identified as one- or two-star schools in the highest-poverty Zip Codes of the school district.

Ms. McCalla said Fiscal Analysis Division staff noted that the education programs professional position recommended to support the Victory schools program should be contingent upon the passage and approval of S.B. 432 (R1). Additionally, the second education programs professional position recommended to support the underperforming schools turnaround program should be contingent upon passage of S.B. 77.

The decision, said Ms. McCalla, was whether the Subcommittees wished to approve State General Fund appropriations of \$176,850 in FY 2016 and \$216,936 in FY 2017 to fund one new education programs professional position and associated operating costs to support the new Victory schools

program, contingent upon the passage and approval of S.B. 432 (R1), and one new education programs professional position and associated operating costs to support the underperforming schools turnaround program, contingent upon passage and approval of S.B. 77, as recommended by the Governor in decision unit Enhancement (E) 278.

Senator Kieckhefer pointed out that the Senate Committee on Finance had heard S.B. 432 (R1), and it would be scheduled for further review in the near future. He pointed out that S.B. 77 might not be the vehicle used for the underperforming schools turnaround program, and the motion should be contingent on the program being created through passage of legislation.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES APPROVE STATE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$176,850 IN FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND \$216,936 IN FISCAL YEAR 2017 TO FUND ONE NEW EDUCATION PROGRAMS PROFESSIONAL POSITION AND ASSOCIATED OPERATING COSTS TO SUPPORT THE NEW VICTORY SCHOOLS PROGRAM, CONTINGENT UPON THE PASSAGE AND APPROVAL OF S.B. 432 (R1), AND ONE NEW EDUCATION PROGRAMS PROFESSIONAL POSITION AND ASSOCIATED OPERATING COSTS TO SUPPORT THE UNDERPERFORMING SCHOOLS TURNAROUND PROGRAM, CONTINGENT UPON PASSAGE AND APPROVAL OF S.B. 77 OR OTHER ENABLING LEGISLATION, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR IN DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT (E) 278.

ASSEMBLYMAN ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

Assemblyman Armstrong asked whether Fiscal Analysis Division staff could make a technical adjustment in the budget account if the legislation failed to pass.

Ms. McCalla said the funding was contingent on the need for the positions based on the outcome of the legislation.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

Ms. McCalla stated the next major issue was the new position for underperforming schools in decision unit E-276. The Governor recommended

State General Fund appropriations of \$50,812 in FY 2016 and \$64,707 in FY 2017 to fund one management analyst position and associated operating costs to support the improvement of underperforming schools. According to the Department, the management analyst position would study and catalogue all interactions between underperforming schools and the Department of Education, including school performance plans, and those plans associated with focus and priority schools. Decision unit E-276 appeared reasonable to Fiscal Analysis Division staff.

The decision, said Ms. McCalla, was whether the Subcommittees wished to approve State General Fund appropriations of \$50,812 in FY 2016 and \$64,707 in FY 2017 to fund one management analyst position and associated operating costs to support the improvement of underperforming schools, as recommended by the Governor in decision unit E-276.

Senator Kieckhefer was somewhat confused about the duties of the proposed position. He noted that positions would be created for Victory schools and the underperforming schools turnaround program, and the duties of those positions would be management of one- and two-star schools.

Ms. McCalla said the education programs professional positions previously approved would be assigned to each program to provide direction. The management analyst position would work with all underperforming schools and all programs. The term "underperforming schools" was a general reference to the priority, focus, and one-star schools; the position would study and catalogue information for all underperforming schools and related programs. The duties of the position would include:

- Catalogue all interactions underperforming schools had with the Department, including school performance plans and those plans associated with priority and focus schools.
- Develop workflow procedures and criteria to ensure all plans were evaluated by Department staff and schools and districts received feedback.
- Create policies and procedures to provide actionable goals for the cross-functional team, as well as the schools in their school performance plans.

- Review and recommend changes to the monitoring program by the Department to ensure districts and schools were held accountable for their approved plan.

Senator Kieckhefer asked how many of the 78 one- and two-star schools would not be captured by the Victory schools and the underperforming schools turnaround programs or one of the other programs that would be created by the Legislature.

Steve Canavero, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent for Student Achievement, Department of Education, stated that depending on how the Zoom school program, Victory schools program, and Read by Three program lists were combined, there would be some overlap with the underperforming schools. Mr. Canavero noted that Fiscal Analysis Division staff had done a good job in distinguishing between the education programs professional positions for the underperforming schools turnaround program, which were very specific to those schools that were designated as operating under a turnaround plan, as compared to the management analyst position, which would be the in-place Department staff who would manage school improvement plans and accountability plans.

Senator Kieckhefer asked whether all programs would be within the same office under the Department's reorganization.

Mr. Canavero replied that the programs would be handled by the school support group. Currently, Title I staff was handling the workload, and when the new programs and positions were approved and on board, they would be located within budget account (BA) 2712, Student and School Support.

Senator Kieckhefer asked whether an education programs professional position was above or below a management analyst position in the reporting mechanism.

Mr. Canavero replied the management analyst position would be below the education programs professional position.

Senator Kieckhefer noted that the management analyst position would have oversight over all programs in all underperforming schools.

Mr. Canavero explained that the management analyst position would work on the accountability provisions and the planning aspects of the programs, and the

education programs professional positions would work on the underperforming schools turnaround program at those schools. The management analyst position would report to the supervisor or the education programs professional position.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson said there had been some discussion about the school star-ranking system and the possibility of the ranking system being frozen for the upcoming school year. She noted that the management analyst position would be specifically tied to one-star schools, and she asked for additional information about the star system.

Mr. Canavero replied that the star rating would be carried forward from the 2013-2014 school year to the 2014-2015 school year. The online star rating for a particular school would refer back to the 2013-2014 school year because of new assessments and a new baseline. The 78 underperforming schools fell into three categories: priority schools, focus schools, and the prior one-star schools, which encompassed the lowest 5 percent of the schools. Mr. Canavero said the focus schools were those with the largest achievement gaps, and the one-star schools were those that did not fall into the priority or focus categories: those were schools where the accumulation of points fell below the two-star threshold.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson believed the intent in capturing the baseline was that if a reevaluation of the star system was conducted, some increases or decreases in star ratings for underperforming schools might be adjusted because of the change in evaluations.

Mr. Canavero stated that the specific carry forward of the ratings from the 2013-2014 school year to the 2014-2015 school year was primarily because of the absence of student growth. He noted that 40 percent of a school's rating in grades 3 through 8 relied on growth; one of the key issues with the old system was that the ranking was simply "proficient" or "not proficient." One of the values of the new framework was the heavy weight placed on growth—how students performed in school year 2 compared to how they had performed in school year 1. That growth would acknowledge that some students might not be proficient to begin with, but the schools were moving those students toward proficiency. Mr. Canavero said with a new baseline, the Department of Education did not have the ability to compare year 1 to year 2, so without the growth data for the current school year, the decision was made to pause or carry forward the ratings.

ASSEMBLYMAN ANDERSON MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES APPROVE STATE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$50,812 IN FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND \$64,707 IN FISCAL YEAR 2017 TO FUND ONE MANAGEMENT ANALYST POSITION AND ASSOCIATED OPERATING COSTS TO SUPPORT THE IMPROVEMENT OF UNDERPERFORMING SCHOOLS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR IN DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT (E) 276.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

Ms. McCalla stated the next major closing issue was the one-time screening tool and evaluation of the social worker/mental health professionals program in decision unit Enhancement (E) 281. The Governor recommended State General Fund appropriations of \$198,792 in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and \$30,000 in FY 2017 for a one-time screening device and an annual evaluation of the social worker/mental health professionals program.

Ms. McCalla said the Governor recommended a major budget initiative to establish a new Office for a Safe and Respectful Schools and social worker or other licensed mental health worker grant program beginning in the 2015-2017 biennium. Ms. McCalla said The Executive Budget recommended funding to provide for contract social workers, or other licensed mental health workers, in schools with identified needs. The one-time screening tool would consist of a Healthy Kids School Climate Survey. The cost of the survey was provided by WestEd, based on a price structure used in California.

Ms. McCalla stated the Department of Education testified at the March 17, 2015, budget hearing that school district social workers used a survey within their assigned schools; however, that only occurred in Clark County. Fiscal Analysis Division staff noted that a climate survey was included in the federal "Now is the Time" Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education) program. The Department indicated the survey included in that program was intended to help gather data about students' perceptions of school safety, student engagement, relationships, the learning environment, and students' social and emotional growth; however, the survey was not specific to mental health.

Ms. McCalla noted that approval of funding in decision unit E-281 would be contingent upon the closing action of the Subcommittees regarding decision unit E-281 in budget account (BA) 2699, Other State Education Programs.

Ms. McCalla stated there were three options for consideration by the Subcommittees:

- Not approve State General Fund appropriations of \$198,792 in FY 2016 and \$30,000 in FY 2017 for a one-time screening device and an annual evaluation of the social worker/mental health professionals program.
- Approve State General Fund appropriations of \$168,792 in FY 2016 for a one-time mental health-screening device as recommended by the Governor.
- Approve General Fund appropriations of \$30,000 in each year of the 2015-2017 biennium for an annual evaluation of the social worker/mental health professionals program, contingent upon the closing action of the Subcommittees regarding decision unit E-281 in BA 2699, Other State Education Programs.

Senator Kieckhefer believed the screening tool was an important component in the new programs, and he was comfortable moving forward with the funding. He indicated that the evaluation would probably make more sense in the second fiscal year of the upcoming biennium because screening would be done in the first year, and he offered the following motion.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES APPROVE STATE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$168,792 IN FISCAL YEAR 2016 FOR A ONE-TIME MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING DEVICE, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR, AND APPROVE A GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION OF \$30,000 IN FISCAL YEAR 2017 FOR AN EVALUATION OF THE SOCIAL WORKER/MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS PROGRAM, CONTINGENT UPON THE CLOSING ACTION OF THE SUBCOMMITTEES REGARDING DECISION UNIT E-281 IN BA 2699, OTHER STATE EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BENITEZ-THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

Senator Kieckhefer noted that funding for the social worker/mental health professionals program was being requested in additional decision units under other closing items, and his intent was that the end result would be an outcome-driven evaluation of the effectiveness of the program.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

Ms. McCalla stated that there were nine other closing items in BA 2712. Fiscal Analysis Division staff noted that item 2, decision unit Enhancement (E) 280, the evaluation for underperforming schools turnaround program, was contingent upon the passage and approval of Senate Bill (S.B.) 432 (1st Reprint); the recommendation appeared reasonable to staff.

Ms. McCalla said Fiscal Analysis Division staff recommended closing other closing items 1 and 3 through 9, as recommended by the Governor, with authority for Fiscal Analysis Division staff to make technical adjustments as necessary. Additionally, staff recommended closing other closing item 2 as recommended by the Governor, contingent upon passage and approval of S.B. 432 (R1), with authority for Fiscal Analysis Division staff to make technical adjustments as necessary.

SENATOR SMITH MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES CLOSE OTHER CLOSING ITEMS 1 AND 3 THROUGH 9 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY AND CLOSE OTHER CLOSING ITEM 2 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR, CONTINGENT UPON PASSAGE AND APPROVAL OF SENATE BILL 432 (1ST REPRINT), AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

ASSEMBLYMAN OSCARSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NDE - LITERACY PROGRAMS (101-2713)
BUDGET PAGE K-12 EDUCATION-148

Andrea McCalla, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated that budget account (BA) 2713 had three major closing issues. The first closing issue was the Smarter Balanced Assessment System in decision unit Enhancement (E) 275. The Governor recommended State General Fund appropriations of \$3,072,795 in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and \$3,011,876 in FY 2017 for the basic Smarter Balanced Assessment System.

Ms. McCalla said if decision unit E-275 was approved, funding was recommended for transfer in decision unit E-927 from BA 2713 to the Assessments and Accountability budget (BA 2697). Fiscal Analysis Division staff noted that an additional State General Fund appropriation of \$1,444,237 in each year of the biennium was recommended in decision unit E-275 in the Assessment and Accountability budget (BA 2697) for the complete Smarter Balanced Assessment System.

The decision, said Ms. McCalla, was whether the Subcommittees wished to approve State General Fund appropriations totaling \$3,072,795 in FY 2016 and \$3,011,876 in FY 2017 for the basic Smarter Balanced Assessment System in decision unit Enhancement (E) 275 or other assessment based on the updated information provided by the Department of Education.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES APPROVE STATE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS TOTALING \$3,072,795 IN FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND \$3,011,876 IN FISCAL YEAR 2017 FOR THE BASIC SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENT SYSTEM, AS RECOMMENDED IN DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT (E) 275, OR OTHER ASSESSMENT BASED ON THE UPDATED INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

ASSEMBLYMAN ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

The second major closing issue, said Ms. McCalla, was elimination of the federal Striving Readers grant in decision unit Enhancement (E) 490. The Governor recommended a reduction in federal grant funding authority of \$9,594,960 in FY 2017 for the federal Striving Readers grant, which would expire on September 30, 2016. The Department stated there was no indication at the present time that the grant would be continued.

The decision, said Ms. McCalla, was whether the Subcommittees wished to approve a reduction in federal grant funding authority of \$9,594,600 in FY 2017 for the federal Striving Readers grant, which would expire on September 30, 2016.

ASSEMBLYMAN ARMSTRONG MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES APPROVE A REDUCTION IN FEDERAL GRANT FUNDING AUTHORITY OF \$9,594,960 IN FISCAL YEAR 2017 FOR THE FEDERAL STRIVING READERS GRANT, WHICH WOULD EXPIRE ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2016, IN DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT (E) 490.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

The next major closing issue, said Ms. McCalla, was the request for two new positions for Nevada's Read by Three program in decision unit Enhancement (E) 280. As part of the Governor's Read by Three major budget initiative, the Governor recommended State General Fund appropriations of \$120,511 in FY 2016 and \$252,067 in FY 2017 to fund one new education programs professional position in FY 2016 and a second education programs professional position in FY 2017 to administer Nevada's Read by Three program. Ms. McCalla stated that \$30,000 in each year of the biennium was included in the budget for external evaluation of the Read by Three program.

Ms. McCalla noted that Fiscal Analysis Division staff had included a technical adjustment to remove the recommended computer, furniture, and telephone equipment for the position, because the equipment in the federal Striving Readers grant program could be transferred to the new Read by Three program.

The decision, said Ms. McCalla, was whether the Subcommittees wished to approve State General Fund appropriations of \$120,511 in FY 2016 and \$252,067 in FY 2017 to fund one new education programs professional position in FY 2016 and one new education programs professional position in FY 2017 to administer Nevada's Read by Three program in decision unit Enhancement (E) 280, with the technical adjustment noted by staff to remove funding for the equipment, and inclusive of \$30,000 in each year of the biennium to fund an annual external evaluation, contingent upon the passage and approval of Senate Bill 391 (1st Reprint).

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES APPROVE STATE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$120,511 IN FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND \$252,067 IN FISCAL YEAR 2017 TO FUND ONE NEW EDUCATION PROGRAMS PROFESSIONAL POSITION IN FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND ONE NEW EDUCATION PROGRAMS PROFESSIONAL POSITION IN FISCAL YEAR 2017 TO ADMINISTER NEVADA'S READ BY THREE PROGRAM IN IN DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT (E) 280, WITH THE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT NOTED BY STAFF TO REMOVE FUNDING FOR EQUIPMENT, AND INCLUSIVE OF \$30,000 IN EACH YEAR OF THE BIENNIUM TO FUND AN ANNUAL EXTERNAL EVALUATION, CONTINGENT UPON THE PASSAGE AND APPROVAL OF SENATE BILL 391 (1ST REPRINT).

ASSEMBLYMAN ARMSTRONG SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

Ms. McCalla stated that there were seven other closing items in BA 2713. The items appeared reasonable to Fiscal Analysis Division staff, and staff recommended closing all other closing items as recommended by the Governor, with authority for Fiscal Analysis Division staff to make technical adjustments as necessary.

SENATOR SMITH MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES CLOSE ALL OTHER CLOSING ITEMS IN BUDGET ACCOUNT 2713 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

ASSEMBLYMAN ARMSTRONG SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NDE - CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (101-2676)
BUDGET PAGE K-12 EDUCATION-157

Andrea McCalla, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, stated there were no major closing issues in budget account (BA) 2676. There were three other closing items in the budget that appeared reasonable to Fiscal Analysis Division staff, and staff recommended that BA 2676 be closed as recommended by the Governor, with authority for Fiscal Analysis Division staff to make technical adjustments as necessary.

ASSEMBLYMAN ARMSTRONG MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES CLOSE BUDGET ACCOUNT 2676 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

SENATOR SMITH SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NDE - DATA SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT (101-2716)
BUDGET PAGE K-12 EDUCATION-175

Andrea McCalla, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, said as part of the Department of Education's departmentwide reorganization, the Governor recommended the establishment of a new Data Systems Management budget account (BA) 2716. The Department maintained the System of Accountability Information in Nevada (SAIN) to report information and make longitudinal comparisons and analysis.

Ms. McCalla noted there were five major closing issues in BA 2716. The first major closing issue was the contract for statewide student information system in decision unit Enhancement (E) 243. The Governor recommended State General Fund appropriations of \$1,588,409 in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and \$1,915,409 in FY 2017 for a contract with Infinite Campus software to support student information data collection and reporting.

Ms. McCalla said the Department indicated that the Infinite Campus State Edition would provide commercial, off-the-shelf solutions built specifically for state departments of education to collect data by gathering the data from school districts. The Department also indicated that consolidating the automated system of accountability information systems of all 17 school districts and the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) would be advantageous because schools could electronically transfer student records between districts; all students and educators would receive a unique identifier; the Department could collect individualized education program enrollment directly from the system; and the module would allow the common and consistent reporting of National School Lunch Program data across all districts and charter schools.

Ms. McCalla stated that the Department noted the Infinite Campus State Edition software would not require all schools to migrate locally to the system, but rather would allow the schools to upload their data to the system using a data adapter. The Department anticipated full adoption of the program by all school districts and SPCSA. At the Nevada Association of School Superintendents' meeting in February 2015, the concept of the statewide migration was supported by all districts.

Per Ms. McCalla, documentation provided by the Department indicated an estimated annual cost avoidance of \$200,000, after the application of the Infinite Campus State Edition software was completed, through possible labor and administrative savings by the Department. The Department indicated the improvements would make processing of information more efficient and more accurate.

The decision, said Ms. McCalla, was whether the Subcommittees wished to approve State General Fund appropriations of \$1,588,409 in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and \$1,915,409 in FY 2017 for a contract with Infinite Campus software to support student information data collection and reporting, as recommended by the Governor in decision unit Enhancement (E) 243.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES APPROVE STATE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$1,588,409 IN FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND \$1,915,409 IN FISCAL YEAR 2017 FOR A CONTRACT WITH INFINITE CAMPUS SOFTWARE TO SUPPORT STUDENT INFORMATION DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR IN DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT (E) 243.

ASSEMBLYMAN ARMSTRONG SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

The next major closing issue, said Ms. McCalla, was a climate survey for Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) in decision unit Enhancement (E) 294. The Governor recommended State General Fund appropriations of \$356,200 in FY 2016 and \$446,082 in FY 2017 for a contract to complete a school climate survey to conduct state polls of Nevada residents to determine their ratings of Nevada's education and schools. All middle and high school students would be required to participate in the survey.

Ms. McCalla noted that the Department of Education had identified three possible reports that could be used for the survey; however, one of the reports was over the estimate of \$802,282 recommended by the Governor if chosen by the Department. Fiscal Analysis Division staff also noted that a climate survey was included in the "Now is the Time" Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education) program in budget account (BA) 2712, Student and School Support. The Department concurred that the Project AWARE survey could potentially function similarly to the Governor's recommended climate survey, depending on the survey selected through the request for proposal (RFP) process. Currently, said Ms. McCalla, the RFP sought a survey instrument to collect student information, not necessarily stakeholder information, although the Department indicated that several potential vendors could also supply parent and staff information to supplement the student information.

Ms. McCalla said Fiscal Analysis Division staff inquired about what other education funding initiatives would be affected if decision unit E-294 were not funded for the school climate survey. The Department responded that the NSPF stood alone, and as such, there would be no effect on other recommended initiatives.

Based on information provided by the Department, said Ms. McCalla, it appeared the survey included in the Project AWARE program could be modified for use with the climate survey; therefore, Fiscal Analysis Division staff did not recommend the approval of decision unit E-294.

Ms. McCalla said there were two options for consideration by the Subcommittees:

1. Whether the Subcommittees wished to approve State General Fund appropriations of \$356,200 in FY 2016 and \$446,082 in FY 2017 for a contract to complete a school climate survey, as recommended by the Governor in decision unit E-294.
2. Whether the Subcommittees wished to not approve State General Fund appropriations of \$356,200 in FY 2016 and \$446,082 in FY 2017 for a contract to complete a school climate survey, as recommended by the Governor in decision unit E-294.

Chair Hickey said he would accept a motion to approve option 2.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES NOT APPROVE STATE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$356,200 IN FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND \$446,082 IN FISCAL YEAR 2017 FOR A CONTRACT TO COMPLETE A SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY AS RECOMMENDED BY FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF.

ASSEMBLYMAN ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

The next major closing issue, said Ms. McCalla, was a contract for data privacy and testing security services in decision unit Enhancement (E) 229. The Governor recommended State General Fund appropriations of \$250,000 in each year of the 2015-2017 biennium to contract services for data privacy and testing security.

During the budget hearing on March 17, 2015, said Ms. McCalla, the Department of Education testified that the school districts had policies and procedures on data privacy and testing security. Additionally, the Department testified there were data security policies adopted by the State Board of Education, and the Department was also required to follow the Division of Enterprise Information Technology Services (EITS), Department of Administration, data security policies, standards, and procedures. However, said Ms. McCalla, the Department indicated that testing security required additional enhancements. Based on the information provided by the Department, decision unit E-229 appeared reasonable.

The decision, said Ms. McCalla, was whether the Subcommittees wished to approve State General Fund appropriations of \$250,000 in each year of the 2015-2017 biennium to contract services for data privacy and testing security, as recommended by the Governor in decision unit E-229.

ASSEMBLYMAN KIRNER MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES APPROVE STATE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$250,000 IN EACH YEAR OF THE 2015-2017 BIENNIUM TO CONTRACT SERVICES FOR DATA PRIVACY AND TESTING SECURITY AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR IN DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT (E) 229.

SENATOR SMITH SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

The next major closing issue, said Ms. McCalla, was the enhancement to the Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) contract in decision unit Enhancement (E) 278. The Governor recommended State General Fund appropriations of \$385,000 in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and \$285,000 in FY 2017 for an enhancement to the NSPF contract.

Ms. McCalla stated that although little information was provided for the recommendation in The Executive Budget, the Department of Education indicated the contract would consist of two parts: (1) \$300,000 over the 2015-2017 biennium for NSPF training and website development; and (2) \$185,000 in each year of the biennium for growth model and NSPF enhancements. The Department indicated that no formal quote was

obtained for the enhancements, rather a comparison of similar work done within the Department was used for the estimate. Modifications to the NSPF were needed because the current system for star ratings was based on existing examinations; however, because of the changes to the examinations, modifications were needed to update the NSPF.

The decision, said Ms. McCalla, was whether the Subcommittees wished to approve State General Fund appropriations of \$385,000 in FY 2016 and \$285,000 in FY 2017 for an enhancement to the Nevada School Performance Framework contract, as recommended by the Governor in decision unit Enhancement (E) 278.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES APPROVE STATE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$385,000 IN FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND \$285,000 IN FISCAL YEAR 2017 FOR AN ENHANCEMENT TO THE NEVADA SCHOOL PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK CONTRACT AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR IN DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT (E) 278.

ASSEMBLYMAN ARMSTRONG SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

The next major closing issue, said Ms. McCalla, was the request for a new information technology professional position in decision unit Enhancement (E) 227. The Governor recommended State General Fund appropriations of \$83,083 in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and \$107,744 in FY 2017 for a new information technology professional position to begin in October 2015 to provide additional staffing resources for the System of Accountability Information in Nevada (SAIN). The Department discovered that the internal ability to access data residing in SAIN was limited and subject to computing demands.

The decision, said Ms. McCalla, was whether the Subcommittees wished to approve State General Fund appropriations of \$83,083 in FY 2016 and \$107,744 in FY 2017 for a new information technology professional position to provide additional staffing resources for SAIN, as recommended by the Governor in decision unit Enhancement (E) 227.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES APPROVE STATE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$83,083 IN FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND \$107,744 IN FISCAL YEAR 2017 FOR A NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONAL POSITION TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL STAFFING RESOURCES FOR THE SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTABILITY INFORMATION IN NEVADA AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR IN DECISION UNIT ENHANCEMENT (E) 227.

ASSEMBLYMAN KIRNER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

Ms. McCalla stated there were eight other closing items in budget account (BA) 2716; all items appeared reasonable to Fiscal Analysis Division staff, and staff recommended that all other closing items be closed as recommended by the Governor, with authority for Fiscal Analysis Division staff to make technical adjustments as necessary.

ASSEMBLYMAN OSCARSON MOVED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEES CLOSE ALL OTHER CLOSING ITEMS IN BUDGET ACCOUNT 2716 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Roberson was not present for the vote.)

Chair Hickey opened public comment, and Dale Erquiaga, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Department of Education, thanked the Subcommittees on behalf of the Department, the State Board of Education, and the Governor. He also thanked Ms. McCalla for her diligent work and thorough review of the Department's budget. Mr. Erquiaga noted that the budget represented a very significant change in the Department of Education, and one that was long overdue.

Senator Smith noted that Nevada's had long been the smallest Department of Education in the country, and she asked whether the changes in the budget would move Nevada up in the rankings.

Mr. Erquiaga did not know how Nevada would ultimately be ranked, but he believed that per capita, the state would remain one of the smaller departments of education.

With no further public comment or business to come before the Subcommittees, Chair Hickey adjourned the hearing at 10:42 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Carol Thomsen
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Assemblyman Pat Hickey, Chair

DATE: _____

Senator Ben Kieckhefer, Chair

DATE: _____

Assembly Committee on Ways and Means
Senate Committee on Finance
Subcommittees on K-12/Higher Education/CIP
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EXHIBITS

Committee Name: Subcommittees on K-12/Higher Education/CIP

Date: May 4, 2015

Time of Meeting: 8:15 a.m.

Bill	Exhibit	Witness / Agency	Description
	A		Agenda
	B		Attendance Roster