

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

**Eighty-Second Session
April 12, 2023**

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 Shea Backus at 8:14 a.m. on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, in Room 3137 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4406 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, 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 at www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/82nd2023.

ASSEMBLY SUBCOMMITTEES MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblywoman Shea Backus, Chair
Assemblywoman Sandra Jauregui, Vice Chair
Assemblywoman Heidi Kasama
Assemblyman Cameron (C.H.) Miller
Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno
Assemblyman P.K. O'Neill
Assemblywoman Sarah Peters

SENATE SUBCOMMITTEES MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop, Chair
Senator Nicole J. Cannizzaro
Senator Dina Neal
Senator Heidi Seevers Gansert
Senator Robin L. Titus

SUBCOMMITTEES MEMBERS ABSENT:

Assemblyman Steve Yeager (excused)

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

None



STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sarah Coffman, Assembly Fiscal Analyst
Wayne Thorley, Senate Fiscal Analyst
Lilliana Camacho-Polkow, Program Analyst
Madison Ryan, Program Analyst
Janice Wright, Committee Secretary
Janet Osalvo, Committee Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jhone Ebert, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Department of Education

Chair Backus:

[Roll was called, and the Subcommittees' rules and protocols were explained.] I will ask for the first budget closing presentation from Ms. Camacho-Polkow.

EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NDE - STANDARDS AND INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT (101-2675)

BUDGET PAGE K-12 EDUCATION-46

Lilliana Camacho-Polkow, Program Analyst:

The Subcommittees will be closing ten Department of Education (NDE) budgets [[Exhibit C](#)]. The first budget to be closed today is budget account 2675 NDE-Standards and Instructional Support, which was heard by the Subcommittees on March 22, 2023, [page 3, [Exhibit C](#)]. This budget supports the positions that coordinate the monitoring and technical support of school district and regional training program implementation of standards through the approval of textbooks and other instructional support measures. There are three Major Closing Issues in this budget.

The first Major Closing Issue is one new education programs professional position to support distance learning. The Governor recommends State General Fund appropriations of \$220,048 over the 2023-2025 biennium for one new education programs professional position and associated expenditures to support the Nevada Digital Learning Collaborative, which includes the statewide learning management system, Canvas, to provide distance learning opportunities to students and teachers statewide.

As background, the 2021 Legislature approved COVID-19 funding of \$1.5 million over the 2021-2023 biennium to fund the Canvas Learning Management System contract through September 2023. The Nevada Digital Learning Collaborative, through the Canvas Learning Management System, supports digital learning and allows educators to submit and assign courses to students.

The new education programs professional position would support the new digital learning collaborative in part by:

- Building a distance learning K-12 curriculum and course library.
- Collecting and analyzing data.
- Monitoring course facilitation, review, and revisions.
- Providing training to educators as they shift to daily integration of digital learning.

The NDE indicates a contractor, funded with Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds, is currently supporting the Nevada Digital Learning Collaborative system. If approved, the new education programs professional position would overlap with the contractor for three months. During the budget hearing, the Department indicated the Nevada Digital Learning Collaborative began during the pandemic and allowed the Department to provide support to ensure all students have access to various courses, no matter their location in the state. It provides students the opportunity to access courses through the Canvas Learning Management System, since some courses can be difficult to support with a qualified instructor in rural Nevada.

Fiscal staff would note the Interim Finance Committee approved additional ESSER funding totaling \$2 million in April 2023, which would fund the Canvas Learning Management System through September 2025. The Executive Budget reflects an employer-pay retirement code for this new position. However, new positions should be assigned employee/employer-pay retirement codes. Accordingly, Fiscal staff recommends a technical adjustment to reflect this new position under the employee/employer retirement code.

Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend approval of the Governor's recommendation for General Fund appropriations of \$220,048 over the 2023-2025 biennium for one new education programs professional position and associated expenditures to support distance learning? If so, Fiscal staff requests authority to enter the noted technical adjustment to account for the appropriate retirement code and any other needed technical adjustments.

Chair Backus:

Subcommittees, do we have any comments or questions on this budget item? [There were none.] I will accept a motion on this item.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION FOR GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$220,048 OVER THE 2023-2025 BIENNIUM FOR ONE NEW EDUCATION PROGRAMS PROFESSIONAL POSITION AND ASSOCIATED EXPENDITURES TO SUPPORT DISTANCE LEARNING AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL STAFF TO ENTER THE NOTED TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT TO ACCOUNT FOR THE APPROPRIATE RETIREMENT CODE AND ANY OTHER NEEDED TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI SECONDED THE MOTION.

Do we have any discussion on this motion? [There was none.]

THE MOTION CARRIED. (ASSEMBLYMAN YEAGER AND SENATORS CANNIZZARO AND TITUS WERE ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

We will move to the next item.

Lilliana Camacho-Polkow:

The second Major Closing Issue on page 5 of your closing packet [\[Exhibit C\]](#) is two new education programs professional positions to support professional development. The Governor recommends General Fund appropriations of \$403,609 over the 2023-2025 biennium for two new education programs professional positions, which would provide professional development, coaching, and training to educators who teach science in grades kindergarten through fifth (K-5) and English language arts in grades six through twelve. The two new positions are recommended due to decreases in student proficiency. One existing education programs professional position currently supports kindergarten through twelfth (K-12) grade science, and another supports K-12 English language arts. One new position would focus on science in grades K-5 to enhance future opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math. The position would build the resource library for K-5 science curriculum; develop and implement K-5 science standards; be responsible for professional development and coaching in K-5 science; and provide this training virtually and in-person as needed.

The other education programs professional position would focus on English language arts in grades six through twelve to ensure support for teachers and students as they transition to informational text and application across all content areas. The position would also build the resource library for grades six through twelve for English language arts curriculum; develop and implement English language arts standards for grades six through twelve; and be responsible for professional development and coaching in grades six through twelve.

However, Fiscal staff would note that no in-state travel is budgeted to provide professional development and coaching to teachers in-person for either of the two recommended positions. Additionally, it appears that all necessary computer equipment such as monitors and keyboards for these new positions was not included in The Executive Budget. The Department also indicates that a portion of the duties of these two positions would include support of the Governor's new dual language pilot program that is recommended in the Other State Education Programs budget account 2699.

During the budget hearing, the Department indicated that four positions currently provide support for literacy programs across the state. With the approval of these two new education programs professional positions, a total of five positions would be available for literacy professional development, and two for science professional development. If approved, seven staff members would be responsible to provide professional development in science and English language arts for over 28,000 educators across the state and would utilize technology to support educators wherever they are located in Nevada. During the hearing, the Department also indicated that training for special education is integrated for support within the classroom.

The Executive Budget does not reflect in-state travel expenditures for these new positions. However, to assist in-person professional development, the Subcommittees could recommend in-state travel expenditures for the new positions. In the base budget, approximately \$10,000 is budgeted for in-state travel for ten full-time-equivalent (FTE) positions or approximately \$1,000 for each position. Accordingly, the Subcommittees may wish to consider providing Fiscal staff with authority to enter a technical adjustment to reflect \$2,000 for in-state travel in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium for these two new FTE positions.

The Executive Budget does not reflect all the necessary computer equipment for these two new positions. Accordingly, the Subcommittees may wish to consider providing Fiscal staff with authority to enter a technical adjustment to reflect the funding necessary to purchase equipment for these two new positions.

Do the Subcommittees recommend approval of the Governor's recommendation for General Fund appropriations of \$403,609 over the 2023-2025 biennium for two new education programs professional positions and associated expenditures to support professional development in science and language arts? If so, do the Subcommittees also recommend approval of the technical adjustments noted for the computer equipment and in-state travel expenditures for the two new positions? Fiscal staff requests authority to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

Senator Neal:

I know that the discussion is around travel, but with the seven staff who will be focused on English language arts, is the \$10,000 plus the \$2,000 going to be enough over the two years

to really try to move the needle? It is my understanding from data in English language arts, that the dual language program is not everywhere. We have very low scores in English language arts. It seems like a lot more in-person training would need to be done with the influx of new teachers. All of the movements that we are doing around the teacher pipeline and alternate ways that we are putting individuals in the classroom need to be addressed.

Lilliana Camacho-Polkow:

The Department indicated that some of this training would be provided virtually, and this additional travel within the state to provide in-person learning was not included. Fiscal staff calculated an average based on what is currently in the budget.

Chair Backus:

Do we have any other comments or questions? [There were none.] With that, I will entertain a motion.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION FOR GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$403,609 OVER THE 2023-2025 BIENNIUM FOR TWO NEW EDUCATION PROGRAMS PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS AND ASSOCIATED EXPENDITURES TO SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN SCIENCE AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL STAFF TO MAKE THE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS NOTED FOR THE COMPUTER EQUIPMENT AND IN-STATE TRAVEL EXPENDITURES FOR THE TWO NEW POSITIONS AND OTHER TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI SECONDED THE MOTION.

Do we have any questions regarding the motion? [There were none.]

THE MOTION CARRIED. (ASSEMBLYMAN YEAGER AND SENATORS CANNIZZARO AND TITUS WERE ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

We will move to the next item.

Lilliana Camacho-Polkow:

The last Major Closing Issue for this budget account on page 7 [\[Exhibit C\]](#) is out-of-state travel expenditures for professional development. The Governor recommends General Fund appropriations of \$40,000 over the 2023-2025 biennium to fund out-of-state travel expenditures for professional development and for Department staff to attend education conferences in the areas of mathematics, science, English language arts, social studies, health, computer science, fine arts, and world languages for ten Department staff. The

Department indicates that staff would attend national education conferences for professional learning to build knowledge and expertise to share with and support educators. Staff would transfer learning into practice by developing professional learning courses in Canvas. The NDE provided travel projections for ten education programs professional positions at \$2,000 each, which totaled \$20,000 in each year of the biennium.

During the budget hearing, members of the Subcommittees expressed concerns with the costs for out-of-state travel expenditures included in the budget, given this budget historically has not budgeted for out-of-state travel. The NDE indicated it has previously sought scholarships from other entities to provide support for travel, including receiving travel reimbursements when NDE staff present information or speak at a conference. The Department indicated that by attending these conferences, the NDE staff would be made aware of the latest trends in education.

After the hearing, the Department provided updated expenditures found on page 9 [\[Exhibit C\]](#), with a priority order for each conference. However, the Department did not provide Fiscal staff with documentation to support updated expenditure projections. The table on page 9 lists the updated travel projections by priority, conference name, location, content area, and total expenditures per conference. There are updated fiscal year totals in each year. Because this budget has not historically been funded for out-of-state travel, the Subcommittees could consider funding only a portion of the Governor's recommendation by providing General Fund appropriations needed for travel to the top three or top five conferences prioritized by the Department.

Therefore, Fiscal staff has several different options for the Subcommittees' consideration. Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend:

- A. Approving the revised recommendation from the Department of Education to fund out-of-state travel expenditures for professional development funded with General Fund appropriations of \$20,920 in fiscal year (FY) 2024 and \$19,025 in FY 2025; or
- B. Approving revisions to the Governor's recommendation by providing reduced out-of-state travel expenditures so Department of Education staff can attend the top three priority conferences, funded with General Fund appropriations of \$5,850 in FY 2024 and \$6,075 in FY 2025; or
- C. Approving revisions to the Governor's recommendation by providing reduced out-of-state travel expenditures so Department of Education staff can attend the top five priority conferences, funded with General Fund appropriations of \$9,970 in FY 2024 and \$9,275 in FY 2025; or
- D. Not approving the Governor's recommendation to fund out-of-state travel expenditures for professional development.

Senator Dondero Loop:

I would weigh in as a former educator and as a legislator. Oftentimes, when you go to conferences, they are held on weekends. You are giving up your own time to be there and to be part of either professional development or acquire the professional development. Many times, even for a legislator, the scholarship is not just a blanket amount to cover how much you spend. I know with certain entities that I have attended, they might give you \$500, or they might give you a specific amount. I think it is really important to value these groups that either ask us to present our expertise or ask that we attend so that we can gain more expertise for our educators. I think it is really important for us to value these programs.

Chair Backus:

Do we have a motion for a recommendation of the Subcommittees?

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP MOVED TO RECOMMEND OPTION A AND APPROVE THE REVISED RECOMMENDATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO FUND OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL EXPENDITURES FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDED WITH GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$20,920 IN FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND \$19,025 IN FISCAL YEAR 2025.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI SECONDED THE MOTION.

Is there any discussion on the motion? [There was none.]

THE MOTION CARRIED. (ASSEMBLYMAN YEAGER AND SENATORS CANNIZZARO AND TITUS WERE ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

We will move to the next budget on the agenda.

**EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NDE - DATA SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT (101-2716)
BUDGET PAGE K-12 EDUCATION-57**

Lilliana Camacho-Polkow, Program Analyst:

The next budget to be closed is the Data Systems Management budget 2716 on page 11 of your closing packet [\[Exhibit C\]](#) and was heard by the Subcommittees on March 8, 2023. This budget funds the positions, contract costs, and hardware/software associated with other student and school data systems, including Infinite Campus, the Nevada Report Card, and the Nevada School Performance Framework. There are two Major Closing Issues in this budget.

The first Major Closing Issue is the continuation of premium products for the Infinite Campus System. The Governor recommends State General Fund appropriations of \$501,114 in fiscal year (FY) 2025 to continue the funding of premium products for the Infinite Campus statewide student information system, which were previously funded with federal Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funds. The Department of Education (NDE) indicates the Infinite Campus premium products integrate Infinite Campus with other third-party systems and include the statistical algorithm to calculate a pupil's Grad Score, which predicts on-time graduation and can be used to identify at-risk pupils.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction, pursuant to statutory authority, prescribed Infinite Campus as the statewide student information system used by the NDE, school districts, university schools for profoundly gifted pupils, and charter schools for the collection and maintenance of student and district data and reporting. The Interim Finance Committee, at its April 1, 2021, meeting, approved the use of GEER funds for the Department to purchase statewide premium products to enhance Infinite Campus, with funding available through FY 2024. The premium products included Campus Analytics and Campus Learning.

Campus Analytics uses a statistical algorithm to measure attendance, behavior, academics, and home and school stability to predict on-time graduation and produce a real-time Grad Score for each student that can be used as an at-risk indicator to assist teachers and counselors to target specific students who need help.

The Campus Learning System is a learning management system that provides school districts with a solution to:

- Improve communication between teachers and students.
- Allow teachers to create quick assignments.
- Identify students in need of help.
- Share lesson plans and assignments across the district.

The Infinite Campus contract is set to expire in FY 2024. The Department submitted a sole source waiver to the Purchasing Division, Department of Administration indicating the Superintendent's statutory authority to determine the system used to collect and report student data. However, the waiver was denied and instead a contract extension was approved through FY 2024.

The Infinite Campus system involves two versions: the statewide version and the district version operated and maintained by school districts and charter schools. The Department indicates if another vendor was selected, all school districts and charter schools would also be required to move to the new system. The NDE indicates school districts and charter schools would need to fund the move, or possibly there could no longer be a statewide student information system.

During the budget hearing, the Department indicated the Campus Analytics portion of Infinite Campus is currently utilized by school districts and the Department to identify pupils who have issues that may affect learning. Information can be used to identify and improve student outcomes at appropriate levels. Fiscal staff would note that during the K-12 education funding work session on March 31, 2023, the Subcommittees indicated it would utilize the Grad Score developed by Infinite Campus to identify at-risk pupils for the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan for the 2023-2025 biennium. This would require the NDE to utilize the Grad Score to identify at-risk pupils in future fiscal years, thereby requiring the funding of Campus Analytics.

The Department further indicated it is prepared to move forward with a request for proposal and is unaware of any other vendor that provides a state-level edition of a student information system like Infinite Campus. Additionally, if a new vendor was selected, it would require two years to implement a new system. School districts also utilize this system; therefore, it may take longer than the two years to implement a statewide district and department-level system.

Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend approval of the Governor's recommendation for General Fund appropriations of \$501,114 in FY 2025 to fund the continuation of the Campus Analytics and Campus Learning products for the Infinite Campus student information system?

Senator Dondero Loop:

My comment is once again from an educator's standpoint and someone who has worked in this space. I want to make it clear that it could be two years to roll over to another system. First of all, there is not another system. On top of that, I want to put it in terms of a high school. You could literally have four years of students, so that is ninth grade to senior in high school, for whom educators would not have use of this system. When you think about that, I want you to remember that you could lose a whole set of students in that process of sharing and desegregating information.

Chair Backus:

I would accept a motion.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION FOR GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$501,114 IN FISCAL YEAR 2025 TO FUND THE CONTINUATION OF THE CAMPUS ANALYTICS AND CAMPUS LEARNING PRODUCTS FOR THE INFINITE CAMPUS STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI SECONDED THE MOTION.

Do we have any questions or comments on the motion? [There were none.]

THE MOTION CARRIED. (ASSEMBLYMAN YEAGER AND SENATORS CANNIZZARO AND TITUS WERE ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

We will move to the next issue.

Lilliana Camacho-Polkow:

The second Major Closing Issue found on page 13 [\[Exhibit C\]](#) is the expiring grant and funding source change for two positions. The Governor recommends the elimination of federal Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems grant funding of \$1.1 million over the 2023-2025 biennium to reflect the expiration of the federal grant and General Fund appropriations of \$327,040 to allow for the retention of two grant-funded positions using state funding.

The grant will expire in February 2024. The Department indicates the positions currently funded with the expiring federal grants are needed to continue to support and enhance the Student Accountability Information Network system modernization. The federal Statewide Longitudinal Data System grant provided federal funds to replace the NDE's legacy security and authentication system and implement the modernized Student Accountability Information Network system infrastructure to collect and report student-level data.

The Governor recommends the continuation of one business process analyst position and one information technology (IT) professional position currently funded with the grant, which would continue to maintain and enhance the system developed with the federal grant funds. The business process analyst would continue to document processes to design, develop, implement, and maintain the system and provide technical support to Department and school district staff who use the system. The IT professional position would work closely with the Department and the Division of Enterprise Information Technology Services, Department of Administration to expand the technology and ensure it interfaces with existing and future enterprise-wide systems. The Executive Budget does not reflect the correct funding date change of March 1, 2024, and instead reflects the funding change effective February 1, 2024.

Additionally, Budget Amendment A230712716 was submitted by the Office of Finance, Office of the Governor on March 3, 2023, and recommends General Fund appropriations of \$1.1 million over the 2023-2025 biennium for the continuation of the Department's identity management licensing contract to support the single sign-on identity management system for the Student Accountability Information Network, which was incorrectly excluded from expenditures in The Executive Budget.

During the budget hearing, the Department indicated if funding for the two grant funded positions is not approved, the positions would be eliminated, and the duties and

responsibilities of the two positions would cease. The NDE would be unable to operate and maintain the new security management system, which would lead to the removal of the system, increased security risk, and require the Department to obtain another security solution. The NDE also indicated the continuation of the identity management licensing contract would allow for dual authentication of users to permit appropriate access to authorized individuals, including parents, to student data, and other systems. The NDE indicated the state providing ongoing support for this system would be looked upon favorably as the Department applies for future federal grant funding.

Fiscal staff recommends a technical adjustment to reflect the correct funding date change of March 1, 2024, for the two positions currently supported with federal grant funding. This technical adjustment decreases personnel expenditures by \$17,113 over the 2023-2025 biennium with a corresponding reduction in General Fund appropriations.

Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend approval of the Governor's recommendation to eliminate federal Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems grant funding of \$1.1 million over the 2023-2025 biennium to reflect the expiration of the federal grant and General Fund appropriations of \$327,040 over the 2023-2025 biennium to allow for the retention of two grant-funded positions using state funding? If so, do the Subcommittees recommend approval of the noted technical adjustment to reflect the proper effective date to continue funding of the two positions? Do the Subcommittees also wish to recommend approval of Budget Amendment A230712716 that recommends General Fund appropriations of \$1.1 million over the 2023-2025 biennium to support the single sign-on identity management system for the Student Accountability Information Network?

Senator Seevers Gansert:

This is a broad question. We have heard a number of items today where we are using General Funds. We also recognize that we have Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) dollars, and ESSER dollars have been planned to be spent, but we are not spending them at the rate that we thought. I understand there is currently a plan, but I am wondering if we should have a backup plan to reallocate ESSER dollars to some of these decision units that we are making if the ESSER money is not spent. I will ask Fiscal staff that question if they have any suggestions because there is a lot of General Fund in here, and we still have quite a bit of ESSER dollars.

Wayne Thorley, Senate Fiscal Analyst:

The Department of Education currently has a plan to expend the ESSER funding that it received through the various COVID-19 relief funding packages from Congress. That plan is outlined in the NDE COVID-19 Funding budget account 2710, which will be heard for closing at a later date. There is an opportunity during that budget closing to potentially recommend adjustments to that plan to the full Committee for ESSER funding or to recommend including back language that could allocate funding from one program to another

program if it is not spent by a certain date. I think there are some options that the money committees could consider during that budget closing.

Senator Seevers Gansert:

That is helpful because I know we have a variety of uses for General Funds, and I know there is a plan to spend ESSER money. But what we have seen time and again in these Subcommittees, not just related to education, are the buckets of funds from the federal government that are not being spent at the rate they need to be spent or per the plans that have been provided, and we have deadlines on those. I think that information is helpful. Later we can figure out how to create back language to make sure that we spend those dollars and provide the flexibility to do that.

Chair Backus:

I appreciate that comment. Do we have any other questions or comments. [There were none.] I would entertain a motion.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION TO ELIMINATE FEDERAL STATEWIDE LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEMS GRANT FUNDING OF \$1.1 MILLION OVER THE 2023-2025 BIENNIUM TO REFLECT THE EXPIRATION OF THE FEDERAL GRANT AND GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$327,040 OVER THE 2023-2025 BIENNIUM TO ALLOW FOR THE RETENTION OF THE TWO GRANT-FUNDED POSITIONS USING STATE FUNDING, AND RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE NOTED TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT TO REFLECT THE PROPER EFFECTIVE DATE TO CONTINUE FUNDING OF THE TWO POSITIONS AND ALSO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT A230712716 THAT RECOMMENDS GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$1.1 MILLION OVER THE 2023-2025 BIENNIUM TO SUPPORT THE SINGLE SIGN-ON IDENTITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR THE STUDENT ACCOUNTABILITY INFORMATION NETWORK.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI SECONDED THE MOTION.

Do we have any questions on the motion? [There were none.]

THE MOTION CARRIED. (ASSEMBLYMAN YEAGER AND SENATORS CANNIZZARO AND TITUS WERE ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

We will move to the next budget account on the agenda.

EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NDE - OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (101-2673)
BUDGET PAGE K-12 EDUCATION-23

Madison Ryan, Program Analyst:

There are eight budget accounts remaining to be closed by the Subcommittees this morning. Three of these budgets were previously heard by the Subcommittees, and Fiscal staff is responsible for developing closing recommendations for the other five budgets. The next budget for the Subcommittees' consideration is the Office of the Superintendent budget account 2673, which was heard by the Subcommittees on March 8, 2023, and begins on page 17 of the closing packet [[Exhibit C](#)]. The Office of the Superintendent budget supports the State Board of Education, the Commission on School Funding, statewide school issues, and functions of the divisions of the Department of Education (NDE).

There are three Major Closing Issues in this budget. The first Major Closing Issue is a funding source change for one education programs supervisor position, inclusive of decision units enhancement (E) 226 and E-490. The Governor recommends a reduction in federal grant fund revenue of \$96,365 in fiscal year (FY) 2025 due to the expiration of a federal grant and a State General Fund appropriation of \$96,365 in FY 2025 to fund an existing education programs supervisor position and associated operating costs that are currently funded with the expiring federal grant funds.

The Department indicates this position is needed beyond the expiration date to assist in the completion of federal reports and would be responsible for the coordination of the closeout requirements for the final American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) grant funds. As background, the Interim Finance Committee approved the addition of one new full-time education programs supervisor position funded with ARPA ESSER funding at its June 22, 2021, meeting. The position was anticipated to manage the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation for federal COVID-19 relief grant funds.

In alignment with state budgetary policy related to positions funded with limited duration grant funding, The Executive Budget reflects this position in the base budget, the elimination of the position after September 2024, and the continuation of the position with General Fund appropriations after September 2024. During the budget hearing, the Department testified that once this grant expires, there will be a need to ensure the Department has the supports to file all of the necessary reports to close out the grant and accounts properly. The Department also indicates this position would assist with those tasks. This education programs supervisor position would only be needed through the spring of 2025 once all of the reports have been submitted.

The decision for the Subcommittees can be found on page 18 of the closing packet [\[Exhibit C\]](#). Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend approval of the Governor's recommendation for a reduction in federal grant revenue of \$96,365 in FY 2025 and the continuation of an education programs supervisor position by replacing expiring federal grant funds with a General Fund appropriation of \$96,365 in FY 2025? Additionally, given the limited duration of the federal grant work that would be assigned to this position, do the Subcommittees also wish to recommend that the Department eliminate this position from the base budget for the 2025-2027 biennium? This would allow the Department to determine if the position needs to continue in the 2025-2027 biennium based on ongoing work, and if that determination is made, a request to do so through an enhancement decision unit would be considered by the 2025 Legislature. Fiscal staff requests authority to enter technical adjustments as necessary.

Chair Backus:

Do we have any comments or questions on this decision unit? [There were none.] With that, I will entertain a motion.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION FOR A REDUCTION IN FEDERAL GRANT REVENUE OF \$96,365 IN FISCAL YEAR 2025 AND THE CONTINUATION OF AN EDUCATION PROGRAMS SUPERVISOR POSITION BY REPLACING EXPIRING FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS WITH A GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION OF \$96,365 IN FISCAL YEAR 2025, AND RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT ELIMINATE THIS POSITION FROM THE BASE BUDGET FOR THE 2025-2027 BIENNIUM TO ALLOW THE DEPARTMENT TO DETERMINE IF THE POSITION NEEDS TO CONTINUE IN THE 2025-2027 BIENNIUM BASED ON ONGOING WORK, AND IF THAT DETERMINATION IS MADE, REQUEST TO DO SO THROUGH AN ENHANCEMENT DECISION UNIT THAT WOULD BE CONSIDERED BY THE 2025 LEGISLATURE, AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL STAFF TO ENTER TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI SECONDED THE MOTION.

Do we have any questions or comments on the motion? [There were none.]

THE MOTION CARRIED. (ASSEMBLYMAN YEAGER AND SENATORS CANNIZZARO AND TITUS WERE ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

We will move to the next Major Closing Issue.

Madison Ryan:

The second Major Closing Issue in this budget is for document translation services. The Governor recommends General Fund appropriations of \$1 million over the 2023-2025 biennium for document translation services, which the Department indicates would allow the NDE to prioritize the translation of public-facing documents into multiple languages.

As background, the legislatively approved NDE COVID-19 Funding budget account 2710 authorized federal funding of \$2 million for translation services over the 2021-2023 biennium. The Department indicated that future budget requests for translation services would be based on actual expenditures. However, the \$500,000 recommended by the Governor in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium does not appear to be based on actual expenditures for translation services.

The table in the middle of page 19 of the closing packet [\[Exhibit C\]](#) provides an overview on how the Department calculated how much funding would be needed for document translation services based on various factors including the number of documents, average number of words, average cost per word, and the number of languages to be translated. According to the Department, document translation would help ensure parents have access to information in a language they are able to understand and would promote equity, transparency, and quality service. Additionally, the Department released the NDE language access plan which identifies there were a total of 88 languages other than English spoken by students in Nevada, as well as the most common languages other than English spoken by Nevada students.

During the budget hearing, the Department testified that there is currently a queue of over 500 documents pending translation in addition to the Department's website, and the Department indicates that it is in the process of prioritizing documents for translation. The NDE's prioritization plan for document translation would take into consideration the most public-facing documents and would be prioritized in the order as outlined in the middle of page 20 of the closing packet [\[Exhibit C\]](#). The Department indicates it plans to increase the use of translation services in the 2023-2025 biennium. Of the \$2 million authorized in the NDE COVID-19 Funding budget for translation services, the Department has expended \$117,362 and has translated 104 documents. The Department indicates it plans to ramp-up translation services in the 2023-2025 biennium.

Additionally, the Department testified during the budget hearing that the recommended funding would allow for the translation of documents into at least 20 languages, and that NDE would consider reducing the number of languages for translation in alignment with the language access plan to allow for more documents to be translated. Since translation services would reflect a large portion of this budget's operating expenditures, Fiscal staff recommends a technical adjustment to reflect translation expenditures in a unique Translation Services expenditure category, which would allow the funding to generally be used only for translation services and allow the Legislature to easily identify translation expenditures in future fiscal years.

The decision for the Subcommittees can be found on page 21 of the closing packet [\[Exhibit C\]](#). Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend approval of the Governor's recommendation for General Fund appropriations of \$500,000 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium for document translation services with the recommended technical adjustment that this expenditure be reflected in a unique Translation Services expenditure category?

Chair Backus:

I have a couple questions. Even though General Fund is being recommended for this item, it appears that \$2 million was authorized in the NDE COVID-19 Funding budget, but only \$117,362 of that was spent. There would be a balance of approximately \$1.88 million. My concern is I do not know why we would need to allocate General Fund to this item. I would change the recommendation to continue utilizing the NDE COVID-19 Funding. If anyone from the Department of Education wants to comment on whether those monies are not available or if there was something else that they were thinking with this budget item, it would be helpful.

Jhone Ebert, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Department of Education:

We have allocated those funds as you noted through 2025 via the federal funds. In addition, we have asked for the base funding to be put into General Funds. We are in the process and it did take us a bit to get all of the work off the state contract. The state was working with a contractor to do the translations. Now the state has a contract in place. We do have a plan in place, and we are moving forward at a much quicker rate than we were in the past. That is why you see the lag in funding. I completely understand the question and why you are asking that. We do expect to fully expend those funds.

Chair Backus:

I have a follow up to that question. I think some of my colleagues may have some questions too. Do we anticipate that the \$1.88 million has already been expended or it is going to be expended before the next biennium? What is the current status of this item?

Jhone Ebert:

Those funds have not been fully expended. The request for information was made about six weeks ago. I can provide you with more updated information because we continue to do that work, provide the documents, and have them translated.

Senator Seevers Gansert:

In looking at these dollars, these are an example of where we have \$2 million but have only spent \$117,362. It was unclear to me whether you think you need an additional \$1 million because the recommendation is for \$500,000 of General Fund in each year of the biennium. Do you actually need the \$2 million bucket from ESSER and an additional \$1 million from General Fund?

Jhone Ebert:

Yes, that is the recommendation.

Senator Seevers Gansert:

You mentioned a request for information. You have a contractor now. Do we know how much that contract is for and what are the expectations and duration?

Jhone Ebert:

The state actually put in a contract that all Departments can now use instead of individual contracts. As a Department, we were seeking our individual contract prior to the state putting in a contract. Now all Departments across the state are using the same contract, and we have the same vendor. Now that work is moving at a much faster rate than it had before.

Senator Seevers Gansert:

Is that contract for the next two-and-a-half or three years? How much is that contract?

Jhone Ebert:

I was not involved with that, and I would need to ask the Purchasing Division, Department of Administration.

Senator Seevers Gansert:

I have a suggestion. We may want to allow the Department to use the ESSER funds and put this in a bucket where they can have access later if they come and ask us for it. We want to make sure that they first spend their ESSER dollars before we tap the General Fund.

Assemblywoman Jauregui:

My question is along the same lines because the numbers do not make sense to me. It looks like there are 500 documents that still need to be translated, but it only cost \$117,362 to translate 104 documents. It seems like even translating those 500 documents would not expend the almost \$1.9 million that is left over in ESSER funds. Approving an additional \$1 million in General Funds seems excessive because it does not sound like even translating the extra 500 documents is going to use the entire \$2 million. My recommendation would be along the lines of what Senator Seevers Gansert recommended.

If you are ready to entertain a motion, my motion would be to not approve the Governor's recommendation of \$500,000 in each year of the next biennium, but instead to approve the \$1 million to go into reserve and request that once they expend the ESSER dollars, the Department of Education come to the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) to request any additional dollars that they need.

Chair Backus:

I would accept a motion.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI MOVED TO NOT APPROVE THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION OF \$500,000 IN EACH YEAR OF THE NEXT BIENNIUM, BUT INSTEAD TO APPROVE \$1 MILLION TO GO INTO RESERVE AND REQUEST THAT ONCE THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXPENDS THE ESSER DOLLARS, IT MAY COME TO THE INTERIM FINANCE COMMITTEE TO REQUEST ANY ADDITIONAL DOLLARS THAT IT NEEDS.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP SECONDED THE MOTION.

We will take a one-minute recess [at 9:02 a.m.].

Chair Backus:

We will reconvene [at 9:04 a.m.]. To circle back, the motion that was pending before we took our one-minute recess was to recommend that the \$1 million recommended by the Governor for the 2023-2025 biennium be placed into reserve and wait until the ESSER funds are spent to do the translation services and return to IFC if those monies are fully expended during the next biennium. That motion was made by Assemblywoman Jauregui and seconded by Senator Dondero Loop.

Do we have any questions or comments on the motion? [There were none.]

THE MOTION CARRIED. (ASSEMBLYMAN YEAGER AND SENATORS CANNIZZARO AND TITUS WERE ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

We will move to the next Major Closing Issue.

Madison Ryan:

The third Major Closing Issue in this budget is for additional expenditure authority for travel, which is comprised of four decision units. The Governor recommends total General Fund appropriations of \$97,126 over the 2023-2025 biennium to fund additional travel expenditures for various expenditure categories.

This recommendation is comprised of four decision units:

- Decision unit enhancement (E) 231 for out-of-state travel.
- Decision unit E-232 for in-state travel.
- Decision unit E-233 for State Board of Education travel.
- Decision unit E-234 for Commission on School Funding travel.

While this is discussed as one Major Closing Issue, the closing document includes independent decision points for each of the four noted decision units. The table at the bottom

of page 21 of the closing packet [[Exhibit C](#)] provides a comparison of the travel expenditures as approved by the Legislature for the 2021-2023 biennium and as recommended by the Governor for the 2023-2025 biennium.

During the budget hearing, the Department testified that the increase in projected travel-related expenditures for the 2023-2025 biennium in comparison to the legislatively approved travel expenditures for the 2021-2023 biennium is due to various factors including inflationary increases as well as changes in board members.

In addition to the funding recommended by the Governor for the 2023-2025 biennium, the Department has identified various potential technical adjustments that would require additional General Fund appropriations for the Subcommittees' consideration. The first travel-related decision unit is for out-of-state travel. The Department indicates that the Governor's recommendation of total General Fund appropriations of \$13,400 over the 2023-2025 biennium should actually reflect \$13,400 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium. Fiscal staff would note the Department of Education provided the planned trips that would be funded with this enhancement, which include seven five-day out-of-state trips for the Superintendent or Deputy Superintendents.

Given some of these events reflect duplicate attendees, the Subcommittees could consider approving the Governor's original recommendation for additional travel funded with General Fund appropriations of \$13,400 over the 2023-2025 biennium. Additionally, Fiscal staff would note that the planned out-of-state trips provided by the Department would require total funding of \$16,750 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium to fully fund all of the trips as identified by the Department, while the Governor's revised recommendation only provides 80 percent of the funding needed to fully fund these trips in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium.

There are various options for the Subcommittees' consideration at the bottom of page 22 of the closing document [[Exhibit C](#)]:

- A. Recommend approval of General Fund appropriations of \$6,700 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium for additional out-of-state travel expenditures, as recommended by the Governor.
- B. Recommend approval of General Fund appropriations of \$13,400 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium for additional out-of-state travel expenditures, as recommended by the Governor with the noted technical adjustment.
- C. Recommend approval of General Fund appropriations of \$16,750 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium for additional out-of-state travel expenditures to fully fund the planned trips as identified by the Department.
- D. Not recommend approval of the Governor's recommendation to increase General Fund appropriations for additional out-of-state travel expenditures in the 2023-2025 biennium.

Fiscal staff requests authority to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

Chair Backus:

Are there any comments or questions? [There were none.] I would entertain a motion.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$16,750 IN EACH YEAR OF THE 2023-2025 BIENNIUM FOR ADDITIONAL OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL EXPENDITURES TO FULLY FUND THE PLANNED TRIPS AS IDENTIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL STAFF TO MAKE OTHER TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI SECONDED THE MOTION.

Do we have any questions or comments on the motion? [There were none.]

THE MOTION CARRIED. (ASSEMBLYMEN MONROE-MORENO AND YEAGER AND SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT WERE ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

Chair Backus:

We will move to the next item.

Madison Ryan:

The second travel-related decision unit is on page 23 of the closing packet [[Exhibit C](#)], which is for in-state travel. The Governor recommends General Fund appropriations of \$10,058 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium for in-state travel expenditures to fund eight trips for the Superintendent or the Deputy Superintendents to attend various meetings. Additionally, Fiscal staff would note that the planned in-state trips provided by the Department would require total funding of \$12,573 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium to fully fund all of the trips as identified by the Department. The Governor's recommendation only provides 80 percent of the funding needed to fully fund these trips in each year of the biennium.

The options for the Subcommittees' consideration are on page 23:

- A. Recommend approval of General Fund appropriations of \$10,058 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium for additional in-state travel expenditures as recommended by the Governor.
- B. Recommend approval of General Fund appropriations of \$12,573 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium for additional in-state travel expenditures to fully fund the planned trips as identified by the Department.

- C. Not recommend approval of the Governor's recommendation to increase General Fund appropriations for additional in-state travel expenditures in the 2023-2025 biennium.

Fiscal staff requests authority to make technical adjustments as necessary.

Chair Backus:

With that, do we have any questions or comments regarding this decision?

Senator Neal:

It seems like the travel is adding up. I know that they need to travel and manage different things, but I also want to know about the effectiveness of what is happening when you do go and look into the education issues.

Chair Backus:

I appreciate that. Superintendent Ebert, can we have you elaborate on the various in-state and out-of-state travel that is being requested by the Department of Education?

Jhone Ebert:

The travel that you see, if you go back to the last session, was minimal travel requested and actually a decrease in travel. There are a couple of things that you see. Number one is the increase in the costs of travel. When we hear Fiscal staff reading things about seven people or seven trips, there are four people who actually fit in that category. It would just be 1.5 trips per person. It is not that piece. And then also too, I appreciate your question on what are the outcomes of that work? I quickly reflected on the last time that I was before you. I had just attended the Council of Chief State School Officers meeting. It was 48 hours; it was here to the District of Columbia and then back. The amount of knowledge that I learned from my colleagues about what was happening within their states and how their Legislatures were working specifically around reading, our early learners, and literacy was helpful. I can tell you that the work and conversations have already been transmitted within the Department and conversations across the state. That is one recent example that I would give you.

Assemblywoman Jauregui:

The Governor's recommendation is to approve \$10,058, which would only be 80 percent of what would be needed to cover the entire cost. What was your plan for the other 20 percent?

Jhone Ebert:

As noted earlier, we quite often ask for scholarships from those entities when we are speaking. Using the Council of Chief State School Officers as an example, when we are asked to speak and provide our own intellectual capital for those conferences, we do ask for that difference.

Assemblywoman Jauregui:

You have already planned that you can cover the other 20 percent with scholarships then.

Jhone Ebert:

That is our hope that we will do that. I cannot guarantee that will transpire as we move forward. That is our strategy.

Chair Backus:

Do we have any other questions or comments regarding this decision unit? [There were none.] With that, I will entertain a motion.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$12,573 IN EACH YEAR OF THE 2023-2025 BIENNIUM FOR ADDITIONAL IN-STATE TRAVEL EXPENDITURES TO FULLY FUND THE PLANNED TRIPS AS IDENTIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI SECONDED THE MOTION.

Do we have any questions or comments on the motion? [There were none.]

THE MOTION CARRIED. (ASSEMBLYMEN MONROE-MORENO AND YEAGER AND SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT WERE ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

Chair Backus:

We will move to the next item.

Madison Ryan:

The third travel-related decision unit is for State Board of Education travel. The Governor recommends additional General Fund appropriations of \$7,256 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium for travel expenditures for State Board of Education members. That is meant to allow for all State Board of Education members to attend either in Las Vegas or Carson City for each meeting, as well as allow for all State Board of Education members to be present in Las Vegas for two meetings each fiscal year of the 2023-2025 biennium. That would require total funding of \$9,070 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium to fully fund travel expenditures for State Board of Education members prior to any technical adjustments. Additionally, the Governor's recommended budget was calculated using an outdated mileage reimbursement rate, and the NDE indicates an adjustment of \$136 in each year of the biennium may be needed to account for the increased rate.

The options for the Subcommittees to consider can be found at the top of page 24 [\[Exhibit C\]](#):

- A. Recommend approval of General Fund appropriations of \$7,256 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium for additional State Board of Education travel expenditures, as recommended by the Governor.
- B. Recommend approval of General Fund appropriations of \$7,392 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium for additional State Board of Education travel expenditures, as recommended by the Governor with the noted technical adjustment.
- C. Recommend approval of General Fund appropriations of \$9,206 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium for additional State Board of Education travel expenditures to fully fund the travel expenditures for State Board of Education members with the noted technical adjustment.
- D. Not recommend approval of the Governor's recommendation to increase General Fund appropriations for additional State Board of Education travel expenditures in the 2023-2025 biennium.

Fiscal staff requests authority to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

Chair Backus:

Do we have any questions or comments regarding this decision? [There were none.] With that, I will entertain a motion.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$9,206 IN EACH YEAR OF THE 2023-2025 BIENNIUM FOR ADDITIONAL STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TRAVEL EXPENDITURES TO FULLY FUND THE TRAVEL EXPENDITURES FOR STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS WITH THE NOTED TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI SECONDED THE MOTION.

Do we have any questions or comments on the motion? [There were none.]

THE MOTION CARRIED. (ASSEMBLYMAN YEAGER AND SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT WERE ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

Chair Backus:

We will move to the next item.

Madison Ryan:

The fourth travel-related decision unit is for the Commission on School Funding travel. The Governor's recommendation of \$24,549 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium includes travel expenditures for members of the Commission on School Funding as well as NDE staff who support the Commission on School Funding. The Governor's recommendation includes all expenditures in the Commission on School Funding category rather than split between the

Commission on School Funding category and the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan staff operating costs category.

There are various technical adjustments outlined on pages 24 and 25 of the closing packet [[Exhibit C](#)] related to the Commission on School Funding. However, the table at the bottom of page 25 provides a comprehensive overview of all of the technical adjustments for the Commission on School Funding. There are two different scenarios identified in the table. The first scenario is contingent upon passage and approval of enabling legislation to change the meeting limitations. The second scenario is based on the current meeting limitations pursuant to *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS). As outlined in the table, the Department indicates the total funding need prior to technical adjustments within the base and decision unit enhancement (E) 234 is \$30,274. The Department then indicates a technical adjustment is needed for the increased mileage reimbursement rate of \$1,152, which would result in a total funding need inclusive of the base budget and decision unit E-234 of \$31,426.

Currently, the base budget includes funding of \$15,000 in fiscal year (FY) 2024 and \$5,000 in FY 2025 for the Commission on School Funding. Decision unit E-234 recommends additional funding of \$24,549 in each year of the biennium, which when combined with the funding in the base budget, would result in expenditures higher than what is indicated to be needed by the NDE in FY 2024 and less than what is indicated to be needed in FY 2025. Therefore, it appears to reach total funding of \$31,426 inclusive of the base budget in decision unit E-234 as identified in the table on page 25, this would reflect a final decision unit E-234 identified funding need of \$16,426 in FY 2024 and \$26,426 in FY 2025 for the first scenario, contingent upon passage and approval of enabling legislation and \$16,426 in FY 2024 and \$0 in FY 2025 based on the current meeting limitations identified in statute.

There is one additional technical adjustment to break out expenditures related to NDE staff and place this funding in the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan staff operating costs category of \$6,230 and maintain the rest of the funding in the Commission on School Funding category to accurately reflect expenditures for Commission on School Funding members and NDE staff in the correct expenditure category.

Pursuant to NRS 387.1246(10), the Commission on School Funding may only meet between July 1 of an odd-numbered year and September 30 of the subsequent even-numbered year. Decision unit E-234 for FY 2025, if approved, would be contingent upon the passage and approval of Assembly Bill 4 or other enabling legislation that would allow the Commission on School Funding to meet outside the current limitations outlined in statute.

Additionally, there is information at the top of page 26 of the closing packet [[Exhibit C](#)] that provides some context on how the current timeframe the Commission is allowed to meet aligns with the budget-building process. The Subcommittees could consider not recommending approval of the additional funding for Commission travel in FY 2025, which

would continue the limitation of the Commission's ability to meet as reflected in NRS 387.1246(10).

The options for the Subcommittees' consideration are outlined on page 26 of the closing packet [[Exhibit C](#)]:

- A. Recommend approval of General Fund appropriations of \$24,549 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium for additional Commission on School Funding travel expenditures, as recommended by the Governor. This option is based on the premise that Assembly Bill 4, or other enabling legislation, would need to be approved by the 2023 Legislature to allow the Commission on School Funding to meet outside the current limitations outlined in NRS 387.1246(10).
- B. Recommend approval of General Fund appropriations of \$16,426 in FY 2024 which consists of \$10,196 in the Commission on School Funding category and \$6,230 in the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan Staff Operating Costs category and \$26,426 in FY 2025 which consists of \$20,196 in the Commission on School Funding category and \$6,230 in the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan Staff Operating Costs category for additional Commission on School Funding travel expenditures, as recommended by the Governor with the noted technical adjustments. This option is based on the premise that Assembly Bill 4, or other enabling legislation, would need to be approved by the 2023 Legislature to allow the Commission on School Funding to meet outside the current limitations outlined in NRS 387.1246(10).
- C. Recommend approval of General Fund appropriations of \$16,426 in FY 2024 which consists of \$10,196 in the Commission on School Funding category and \$6,230 in the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan Staff Operating Costs category and \$0 in FY 2025 for additional Commission on School Funding travel expenditures, consistent with the current limitations on the Commission on School Funding's ability to meet pursuant to NRS 387.1246(10).
- D. Not approve the Governor's recommendation to increase General Fund appropriations for additional Commission on School Funding travel expenditures in the 2023-2025 biennium.

Fiscal staff requests authority to enter other technical adjustments as necessary based on the Subcommittees' decision. In addition, Fiscal staff requests authority to include back language in the 2023 Appropriations Act to provide additional travel funding for the Commission on School Funding in FY 2025, if recommended for approval by the Subcommittees, contingent on the passage and approval of enabling legislation.

Chair Backus:

Do we have any questions or comments regarding this decision unit? [There were none.]
With that, I will entertain a motion.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$16,426 IN FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND \$0 IN FISCAL YEAR 2025 FOR ADDITIONAL COMMISSION ON SCHOOL FUNDING TRAVEL EXPENDITURES, CONSISTENT WITH THE CURRENT LIMITATIONS ON THE COMMISSION ON SCHOOL FUNDING'S ABILITY TO MEET PURSUANT TO NRS 387.1246(10), AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL STAFF TO MAKE OTHER TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY BASED ON THE SUBCOMMITTEES' DECISION AND INCLUDE BACK LANGUAGE IN THE 2023 APPROPRIATIONS ACT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL TRAVEL FUNDING FOR THE COMMISSION ON SCHOOL FUNDING IN FISCAL YEAR 2025, IF RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL BY THE SUBCOMMITTEES, CONTINGENT ON THE PASSAGE AND APPROVAL OF ENABLING LEGISLATION.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chair Backus:

We need to clarify the motion on the technical corrections.

Senator Dondero Loop:

With option C, Fiscal staff would not need the technical adjustments that I just read. I will restate my motion.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$16,426 IN FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND \$0 IN FISCAL YEAR 2025 FOR ADDITIONAL COMMISSION ON SCHOOL FUNDING TRAVEL EXPENDITURES, CONSISTENT WITH THE CURRENT LIMITATIONS ON THE COMMISSION ON SCHOOL FUNDING'S ABILITY TO MEET PURSUANT TO NRS 387.1246(10), AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL STAFF TO MAKE OTHER TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY BASED ON THE SUBCOMMITTEES' DECISION.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI SECONDED THE MOTION.

Are there any questions on the motion? [There were none.]

THE MOTION CARRIED. (ASSEMBLYMAN YEAGER WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

We will move to the next budget.

EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NDE - CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (101-2676)
BUDGET PAGE K-12 EDUCATION-102

Madison Ryan, Program Analyst:

The next budget for the Subcommittees' consideration is the Career and Technical Education budget account 2676 [page 29, [Exhibit C](#)], which was previously heard by the Subcommittees on March 8, 2023. The Career and Technical Education budget provides resources to improve occupational education programs and to provide improved access to these programs by populations with special needs, including individuals with disabilities, limited English proficiency, the economically disadvantaged, and nontraditional enrollees. There is one Major Closing Issue in this budget, which is the Career and Technical Education maintenance of effort.

Inclusive of all decision units, the Governor recommends total State General Fund appropriations of \$751,277 in fiscal year (FY) 2024 and \$752,522 in FY 2025, which is used to satisfy the maintenance of effort required for the federal Carl D. Perkins grant. The 2021 Legislature approved General Fund appropriations of \$678,013 in each year of the 2021-2023 biennium to provide a consistent maintenance of effort and avoid continuous increases in maintenance of effort. The maintenance of effort for the federal Carl D. Perkins grant is determined by adding the state administrative funds, which are included in this budget, and the state programmatic funds, which are included in the Other State Education Programs budget account 2699.

The Governor's recommended budget represents an increase of General Fund appropriations of \$73,264 in FY 2024 and \$74,509 in FY 2025 when compared to the legislatively approved funding of \$678,013 in each year of the 2021-2023 biennium. The table at the top of page 30 of the closing document [\[Exhibit C\]](#) provides an overview of the General Fund appropriations recommended in the base budget as well as in each decision unit as recommended by the Governor. For some additional context, the table at the bottom of page 30 of the closing packet identifies what portion of these various decision units is recommended by the Governor to be funded with General Fund appropriations versus federal funds for each decision unit. The Department has identified various potential technical adjustments that could reduce the General Fund appropriations in this budget and also increase in-state travel expenditures using Carl D. Perkins grant funds.

During the budget hearing, the Department testified that the General Fund appropriations in this budget should reflect the amounts approved by the 81st Legislature for the 2021-2023 biennium. As previously mentioned, the Department has identified various potential technical adjustments that could reduce the General Fund appropriations in this budget in decision unit enhancement (E) 231 and decision unit E-276.

Decision unit E-231 is outlined in the middle of page 31 of the closing document [\[Exhibit C\]](#). The Department indicates that the in-state travel decision unit could be funded with Carl D. Perkins grant funds rather than General Fund appropriations. The Department requests a technical adjustment to increase this decision unit by \$2,000 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium. The out-of-state travel decision unit could be decreased by a commensurate amount. The Department indicates that decision unit E-276 for out-of-state travel should be funded with General Fund appropriations but should be reduced by \$2,000 in each year in alignment with the \$2,000 increase in decision unit E-231.

The table at the top of page 32 of the closing packet [\[Exhibit C\]](#) provides an updated overview of the funding source distribution for each decision unit in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium with the technical adjustments as mentioned. Additionally, with the noted technical adjustments for decision units E-231 and E-276, and prior to any other technical adjustments, the General Fund appropriations for the 2023-2025 biennium are identified in the table in the middle of page 32 of the closing packet. Given that the Department indicates the intent is to provide the same level of General Fund appropriations as approved by the 2021 Legislature, additional adjustments are required. An additional \$63,264 in FY 2024 and \$64,509 in FY 2025 would need to be reduced from the base budget in order to maintain the 2021-2023 maintenance of effort level.

Following the budget hearing, the Department indicated that it was made aware of Congress's intent to provide additional Carl D. Perkins grant funding to states in recognition of recent inflationary increases. The Department anticipates that it is likely to receive additional Carl D. Perkins grant funding, which would require additional General Fund appropriations to serve as the maintenance of effort funds in order for the Department to be eligible to receive these additional federal funds. The Subcommittees may wish to provide additional General Fund appropriations to the Department and place this funding in the Reserve category. This would require the Department to process work programs during the 2023-2025 biennium to move these funds from the Reserve category only if the additional federal funding were to become available.

The Subcommittees could consider approval of General Fund appropriations of \$678,013 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium consistent with the legislatively approved funding in the 2021-2023 biennium and approval of additional General Fund appropriations of \$73,264 in FY 2024 and \$74,509 in FY 2025, or an average of \$73,887 between the two years of the 2023-2025 biennium to be placed in reserve and direct the Department to seek Interim Finance Committee (IFC) approval to utilize these funds should the additional increase in Carl D. Perkins grant funds become available and additional state funding is needed for the maintenance of effort.

The decision options for the Subcommittees are in the middle of page 33 of the closing packet [\[Exhibit C\]](#):

1. Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend approval of General Fund appropriations of \$678,013 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium consistent with the legislatively approved funding in the 2021-2023 biennium, and inclusive of reductions to the base budget of \$63,264 in FY 2024 and \$64,509 in FY 2025 as well as the technical adjustments recommended by the NDE for decision units providing for in-state travel, out-of-state travel, fringe benefits, and statewide inflation?
And
2. Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend, in addition to the General Fund appropriations included in option one of \$678,013 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium, additional General Fund appropriations of \$73,887 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium to be placed in reserve and provide direction to the Department to seek the Interim Finance Committee's approval to utilize these funds should the additional increase in federal Carl D. Perkins grant funds become available and additional state funding is needed for the maintenance of effort?

Fiscal staff requests authority to enter technical adjustments as needed.

Chair Backus:

Do we have any comments or questions regarding this decision unit? [There were none.]
With that, I will entertain a motion.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$678,013 IN EACH YEAR OF THE 2023-2025 BIENNIUM CONSISTENT WITH THE LEGISLATIVELY APPROVED FUNDING IN THE 2021-2023 BIENNIUM AND INCLUSIVE OF REDUCTIONS TO THE BASE BUDGET OF \$63,264 IN FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND \$64,509 IN FISCAL YEAR 2025 AS WELL AS THE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR DECISION UNITS PROVIDING FOR IN-STATE TRAVEL, OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL, FRINGE BENEFITS, AND STATEWIDE INFLATION, AND RECOMMEND, IN ADDITION TO THE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS INCLUDED IN OPTION ONE OF \$678,013 IN EACH YEAR OF THE 2023-2025 BIENNIUM, ADDITIONAL GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$73,887 IN EACH YEAR OF THE 2023-2025 BIENNIUM TO BE PLACED IN RESERVE AND PROVIDE DIRECTION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO SEEK THE INTERIM FINANCE COMMITTEE'S APPROVAL TO UTILIZE THESE FUNDS, SHOULD THE ADDITIONAL INCREASE IN FEDERAL CARL D. PERKINS GRANT FUNDS BECOME AVAILABLE AND ADDITIONAL STATE FUNDING IS NEEDED FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL STAFF TO ENTER TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NEEDED.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI SECONDED THE MOTION.

Do we have any questions or comments on the motion? [There were none.]

THE MOTION CARRIED. (ASSEMBLYMAN YEAGER WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

We will move to the next item.

Madison Ryan:

There is one Other Closing Item in this budget for replacement equipment also related to the maintenance of effort. The Governor recommends a one-time State General Fund appropriation of \$865 and federal funding of \$1,539 in FY 2023 to fund the replacement of computer hardware and associated software. The Department indicates the \$865 in General Fund appropriations recommended for replacement equipment could be funded with federal funding as long as total General Fund appropriations are maintained at \$678,013 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium.

The replacement of computer hardware and associated software could be a decision for the Subcommittees' consideration within the Department's budget rather than considered through a separate bill. As such, Fiscal staff recommends a technical adjustment to reflect the replacement of computer hardware and associated software with federal funding of \$2,404 in FY 2025 as a decision unit in this budget. Fiscal staff recommends the Other Closing Item be closed with the noted technical adjustments and requests authority for Fiscal staff to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

Chair Backus:

Do we have any questions or comments regarding this decision unit? [There were none.]
With that, I will entertain a motion.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP MOVED TO RECOMMEND THE OTHER CLOSING ITEM BE CLOSED WITH THE NOTED TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL STAFF TO MAKE OTHER TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI SECONDED THE MOTION.

Do we have any questions or comments on the motion? [There were none.]

THE MOTION CARRIED. (ASSEMBLYMAN YEAGER WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

We will move to the next budget.

EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NDE - LITERACY PROGRAMS (101-2713)
BUDGET PAGE K-12 EDUCATION-98

Madison Ryan, Program Analyst:

The next budget for the Subcommittees' consideration is the Literacy Programs budget account 2713 [page 35, [Exhibit C](#)], which was previously heard by the Subcommittees on March 8, 2023. The Literacy Programs budget provides resources for the state's Read by Grade Three program that support school district and charter school literacy programs and ensures the administration of the literacy instruction requirements defined in *Nevada Revised Statutes* 392.750 through 392.775.

There are two Major Closing Issues in this budget. The first is a revision of the Nevada State Literacy Plan, which is decision unit enhancement (E) 275. The Governor recommends State General Fund appropriations of \$500,000 over the 2023-2025 biennium to fund a revision of the Nevada State Literacy Plan. The Department indicates the current Nevada State Literacy Plan is outdated and was last updated in 2015. According to the Department, because the plan is outdated, Nevada would be disqualified from receiving a number of U.S. Department of Education federal literacy grants. Since the Nevada State Literacy Plan was last revised in 2015, the Department indicates that research cited in the current Nevada State Literacy Plan may now be outdated and may not reflect the most up-to-date literacy research or reflect recent changes that have occurred in Nevada.

This recommendation would fund the creation of a Nevada State Literacy Plan revision team and associated costs including travel, stipends, research, professional consultation, graphic design, and printing costs. The table at the top of page 36 of the closing packet [\[Exhibit C\]](#) provides an overview of the projected costs for this revision as provided by the Department. As noted in the table, the projected annual expenditures of \$250,000 are recommended to be expended in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium. To be eligible to apply for various federal literacy grants, states are required to have a current state literacy plan. The Department indicates that once the Nevada State Literacy Plan is updated, Nevada would be able to apply for federal grants.

Prior to the budget hearing, the Department indicated that team member stipends, as shown in the table on page 36 of the closing packet [\[Exhibit C\]](#), would be provided to 25 individuals at \$5,000 per team member. However, following the budget hearing, the Department indicated it would add an additional 5 members from other stakeholder groups for a total of 30 members for the revision team. The Department also indicated that these members would work 138 hours during the first year of the creation and revision of the document and would receive compensation equal to \$30 per hour, which would total \$124,200 for all 30 members of the revision team in fiscal year (FY) 2024 rather than a \$5,000 stipend per team member as previously indicated.

The Department testified that it anticipates the new Nevada State Literacy Plan would be complete by fall of 2024. Should the revision of the plan be complete by the fall of 2024, the Department indicates that in FY 2025, the funding initially indicted to be provided for team member stipends would be available to create professional learning support materials and videos. The table at the bottom of page 37 of the closing packet [\[Exhibit C\]](#) provides an updated overview of the projected cost of each of the expenditures the Department indicates would be funded throughout the process of creating an updated Nevada State Literacy Plan in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium, which would be \$800 less in each fiscal year than what was recommended by the Governor.

Additionally, during the budget hearing the Department was asked how much federal funding Nevada could have been eligible to receive in recent fiscal years had an updated state literacy plan been in place. The Department indicated there is a grant that is scheduled to be released in the next year that totals between \$25 million and \$30 million that could be available. Additionally, following the budget hearing, the Department indicated it would revise and/or update the Nevada State Literacy Plan every four years in alignment with the federal grant timelines.

Fiscal staff recommends a technical adjustment to reflect expenditures in this decision unit in a unique State Literacy Plan expenditure category if it is recommended for approval by the Subcommittees. This would allow the funding to generally be used only for State Literacy Plan revisions and would allow these expenditures to be easily identified and removed from the adjusted base budget in future fiscal years.

The decision for the Subcommittees can be found at the top of page 38 of the closing packet [\[Exhibit C\]](#). Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend approval of General Fund appropriations of \$249,200 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium to fund the development of a revised Nevada State Literacy Plan with the recommended technical adjustment that this expenditure be reflected in a unique State Literacy Plan expenditure category?

Chair Backus:

Do we have any questions or comments regarding this decision unit? [There were none.] With that, I will entertain a motion.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$249,200 IN EACH YEAR OF THE 2023-2025 BIENNIUM TO FUND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A REVISED NEVADA STATE LITERACY PLAN WITH THE RECOMMENDED TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT THAT THIS EXPENDITURE BE REFLECTED IN A UNIQUE STATE LITERACY PLAN EXPENDITURE CATEGORY.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI SECONDED THE MOTION.

Do we have any questions or comments on the motion? [There were none.]

THE MOTION CARRIED. (ASSEMBLYMAN YEAGER WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

We will move to the next item.

Madison Ryan:

The second Major Closing Issue in this budget is funding for Nevada Reading Week events in decision unit E-276. The Governor recommends General Fund appropriations of \$100,000 over the 2023-2025 biennium to fund Nevada Reading Week events. This recommendation would provide funding for the Nevada Reading Week conference and improve the events offered during Nevada Reading Week. This recommendation would provide dedicated funding for Nevada Reading Week events.

Nevada Reading Week has helped to promote a life-long love of reading to Nevada students and often includes activities such as book fairs, family literacy events, book and author studies, and literary readings by renowned authors. This recommendation would provide funding for the author live event and the Nevada Reading Week conference as identified in the table at the bottom of page 38 of the closing document [[Exhibit C](#)]. The funding includes items such as author fees, professional Zoom accounts, keynote session presenter fees, and librarian and educator travel support.

The Department indicates that this recommendation would fund the purchase of a professional Zoom account that would provide all Nevada students the opportunity to participate in the event during Nevada Reading Week. The funding would increase the number of participating authors from 13 in FY 2022 to 20 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium. The Department notes that the traditional in-person reading events may only reach a limited number of students and some rural schools are unable to afford in-person author visits due to travel costs. Funding would help to secure a venue, pay keynote speakers, and fund presenter stipends and other costs for the Nevada Reading Week conference. This would provide an opportunity for Nevada librarians and educators to attend professional learning opportunities and build in-state working relationships. This

recommendation would fund travel support of \$300 each for 10 teachers or librarians who live more than 50 miles from the conference location.

During the budget hearing, the Department testified that not all school districts and charter schools currently participate in Nevada Reading Week, but this recommendation would provide sufficient resources to allow all school districts and charter schools to participate. The Department testified that it anticipates travel support for librarians and educators would be awarded through an application process, and those selected to receive travel support would represent different areas of the state. The Department would like to provide new librarians and educators with travel support each year.

Fiscal staff would note that the Governor recommends funding in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium to fund Zoom Executive licenses in the Student and School Support budget account 2712. Following the budget hearing, the Department indicated that the Zoom accounts recommended to be funded by the Governor for Nevada Reading Week totaling \$3,000 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium would no longer be needed, which would reduce this decision unit to \$47,000 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium.

The decision for the Subcommittees can be found at the top of page 40 of the closing packet [\[Exhibit C\]](#). Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend approval of General Fund appropriations of \$47,000 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium inclusive of the technical adjustment for the Zoom accounts to provide funding for Nevada Reading Week events?

Chair Backus:

Do we have any questions or comments regarding this decision unit? [There were none.] With that, I will entertain a motion.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$47,000 IN EACH YEAR OF THE 2023-2025 BIENNIUM INCLUSIVE OF THE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT FOR THE ZOOM ACCOUNTS TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR NEVADA READING WEEK EVENTS.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI SECONDED THE MOTION.

Do we have any questions or comments on the motion? [There were none.]

THE MOTION CARRIED. (ASSEMBLYMAN YEAGER WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

We will move to the next budget.

EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NDE - EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS (101-2612)
BUDGET PAGE K-12 EDUCATION-66

Madison Ryan, Program Analyst:

The next five budgets for the Subcommittees' consideration have not previously been heard by the Subcommittees. Fiscal staff is responsible for developing the closing recommendations. The first budget is Educator Effectiveness budget account 2612. The Educator Effectiveness budget provides resources to support the certification of administrator and teacher preparation programs, professional development and high-quality learning, development and support of a statewide evaluation system, and the Nevada Educator Performance Framework. There are no Major Closing Issues in this budget, but one Other Closing Item is the transfer of the State Teacher of the Year program.

As background, the 2021 Legislature approved the transfer of the State Teacher of the Year program to the Professional Development Programs budget account 2618 from the Educational Trust Account budget account 2614. However, it appears the State Teacher of the Year expenditures would be more appropriate in a Department budget rather than a K-12 budget. Fiscal staff recommends a technical adjustment to transfer the State Teacher of the Year program, inclusive of State General Fund appropriations and expenditures of \$7,751 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium, from the Professional Development Programs budget to this budget.

Chair Backus:

Are there any questions regarding this budget? [There were none.] We will hold our motions until the end of the presentation by Fiscal staff of the recommended budget closings. We will move to the next budget.

EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NDE - ACCOUNT FOR ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS (101-2672)
BUDGET PAGE K-12 EDUCATION-120

Madison Ryan, Program Analyst:

The next budget not previously heard by the Subcommittees is the Account for Alternative Schools budget account 2672. The Account for Alternative Schools was established during the 2015-2017 biennium after the Department of Education received a federal charter school program grant, which expired in fiscal year 2022. This budget currently supports the licensure and regulation of private schools funded with State General Fund appropriations and private school license and fee revenues. There are no Major Closing Issues in this budget.

There is one Other Closing Item related to license and fee revenue and balance forward funding. The Department has balanced forward from one fiscal year to the next funding associated with private school license and fee revenue, which is currently only used to fund the Private Schools expenditure category in this budget. Pursuant to *Nevada Revised Statutes* 394.331, it appears this funding could be used to fund any expenditures in this budget and then remaining expenditures could be funded with General Fund appropriations. As such, the Subcommittees could direct the Department to expend balance forward funds and license and fee revenue prior to expending General Fund appropriations.

Chair Backus:

Are there any questions on this budget? [There were none.] We will move to the next budget.

EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NDE - GEAR UP (101-2678)

BUDGET PAGE K-12 EDUCATION-70

Madison Ryan, Program Analyst:

The next budget not previously heard by the Subcommittees is the GEAR UP budget account 2678. The Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) is a federally funded program to provide low-achieving students who are economically disadvantaged with an opportunity to improve academic achievement, increase test scores, decrease the high school dropout rate, and increase enrollment in institutions of higher education and success rates at those institutions. On August 23, 2019, the Department was awarded a new seven-year federal 2019 GEAR UP grant of \$3.5 million each year totaling \$24.5 million, which expires on August 22, 2026. There are no Major Closing Issues in this budget. The one Other Closing Item outlined in the table on page 45 of the closing packet [[Exhibit C](#)] is related to equipment replacement.

Chair Backus:

Are there any questions or comments on this budget?

Senator Neal:

I have a comment. I would like to see the data that is associated with the GEAR UP program because it is an overlap in the wraparound services that are currently in play in schools.

Chair Backus:

We will request information if the Department does have such data. Please forward the data to our Fiscal staff so the Subcommittees can get a copy of it. We will move to the next budget.

EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NDE - CONTINUING EDUCATION (101-2680)
BUDGET PAGE K-12 EDUCATION-107

Madison Ryan, Program Analyst:

The next budget not previously heard by the Subcommittees is the Continuing Education budget account 2680. The Continuing Education budget funds classes for adults to improve basic literacy skills; obtain the knowledge and skills necessary for employment and self-sufficiency; assist in the completion of secondary school education; and teach parents the educational skills necessary to become full partners in the education of their children. The budget is funded primarily through the federal Adult Basic Education grant and also contains the Adult Literacy program, which is funded entirely with State General Fund appropriations. There are no Major Closing Issues in this budget. The one Other Closing Item is identified in the table at the bottom of page 47 of the closing packet [[Exhibit C](#)].

Chair Backus:

Are there any questions on this budget? [There were none.] We will move to the next budget.

EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NDE - PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT (101-2706)
BUDGET PAGE K-12 EDUCATION-74

Madison Ryan, Program Analyst:

The final budget the Subcommittees have not previously heard is the Parental Involvement and Family Engagement budget account 2706. This budget supports the Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement and the 11-member Advisory Council for Family Engagement. The Office is required to review and evaluate the programs implemented by school districts and public schools for carrying out and increasing parental involvement and family engagement in public schools. There are no Major Closing Issues in this budget.

The one Other Closing Item is related to the Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. As background, the 2021 Legislature approved the transfer of the Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children contract to the Parental Involvement and Family Engagement budget from the Educational Trust Account budget account 2614. The Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children contract is currently reflected in the Parental Involvement Summit category in this budget. However, it appears that this expenditure does not align with the category title. Fiscal staff recommends a technical adjustment to reflect this expenditure in a unique Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children expenditure category.

Chair Backus:

Are there any questions on this budget? [There were none.] We will move to the next item.

Madison Ryan:

As previously noted, Fiscal staff is responsible for developing closing recommendations for the previously mentioned staff-closed budgets. Fiscal staff recommends that the following budgets be closed as recommended by the Governor with the technical adjustments noted and requests authority for staff to make other technical adjustments as necessary:

- Budget account 101-2612: Nevada Department of Education (NDE)—Educator Effectiveness, including a technical adjustment to transfer the State Teacher of the Year program, inclusive of General Fund appropriations and expenditures of \$7,751 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium from the Professional Development Programs budget to this budget.
- Budget account 101-2672: NDE—Account for Alternative Schools, including directing the NDE to utilize balance forward funds and private school license and fee revenue to fund the Private Schools, Operating, and Information Services expenditure categories, and any other expenditures in this budget prior to utilizing any General Fund appropriations in the 2023-2025 biennium.
- Budget account 101-2678: NDE—GEAR UP.
- Budget account 101-2680: NDE—Continuing Education.
- Budget account 101-2706: NDE—Parental Involvement and Family Engagement, including a technical adjustment to reflect expenditures for the Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children contract in a unique expenditure category.

Chair Backus:

Are there any questions? [There were none.] At this time, we will go ahead and entertain a motion.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP MOVED TO RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING BUDGETS BE CLOSED AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR WITH THE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS NOTED AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL STAFF TO MAKE OTHER TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY:

- BUDGET ACCOUNT 101-2612: NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (NDE)—EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS, INCLUDING A TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT TO TRANSFER THE STATE TEACHER OF THE YEAR PROGRAM INCLUSIVE OF STATE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS AND EXPENDITURES OF \$7,751 IN EACH YEAR OF THE 2023-2025 BIENNIUM FROM THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS BUDGET TO THIS BUDGET.
- BUDGET ACCOUNT 101-2672: NDE—ACCOUNT FOR ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS, INCLUDING DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO UTILIZE BALANCE FORWARD FUNDS AND PRIVATE SCHOOL LICENSE AND FEE REVENUE TO FUND THE PRIVATE SCHOOLS, OPERATING, AND INFORMATION SERVICES EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES, AND ANY OTHER EXPENDITURES IN THIS BUDGET PRIOR TO UTILIZING ANY GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS IN THE 2023-2025 BIENNIUM.
- BUDGET ACCOUNT 101-2678: NDE—GEAR UP.
- BUDGET ACCOUNT 101-2680: NDE—CONTINUING EDUCATION.
- BUDGET ACCOUNT 101-2706: NDE—PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT, INCLUDING A TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT TO REFLECT EXPENDITURES FOR THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN CONTRACT IN A UNIQUE EXPENDITURE CATEGORY.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JAUREGUI SECONDED THE MOTION.

Do we have any questions or comments on the motion? [There were none.]

THE MOTION CARRIED. (ASSEMBLYMAN YEAGER WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

Assembly Committee on Ways and Means
Senate Committee on Finance
Subcommittees on K-12/Higher Education/CIP
April 12, 2023
Page 41

Chair Backus:

I believe we have finished our budget items this morning. We will open public comment. [There was none.] Do we have any remarks from our Subcommittees' members? [There were none.]

There being no further business before the Subcommittees, this meeting is adjourned [at 9:53 a.m.].

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Janice Wright
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Assemblywoman Shea Backus, Chair

DATE: _____

Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBITS

[Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda.

[Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster.

[Exhibit C](#) is a document titled "K-12/HIGHER EDUCATION/CIP JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE CLOSING LIST #2," dated April 12, 2023, presented by Lilliana Camacho-Polkow, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, and Madison Ryan, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau.