

# NEVADA'S ZOOM GRANT DISTRICTS



**GUIDANCE**  
*July 2015*

Information in this document is designed to provide initial guidance to school districts other than Clark and Washoe and to the state public charter school authority. Hereafter they will be referred to as Zoom Grant Districts. Additional guidance will be provided as the 2015-16 school year progresses.

Table of Contents:

Topic	Page
Section A. Zoom Grant District Introduction (Revised 7/21/15)	3
Section B. Zoom Grant Districts Identification	6
B.1. Participating Schools	6
B.2. Restriction on Multiple Designations	6
B.3. Report to the State	6
Section C. Zoom Grant Districts Requirements	7
C.1. SB 405 Programs and Services	7
C.2. Allocations and Use of Funds	7
C.3. Monitoring and Data Collection	8
C.4. Application Process	8
C.5. New Requirements: Implementation Procedures and Performance Levels	9
C.6. Assessment	9
C.7. Evaluation	10
C.8. Annual Report	10
Section D. SB 405 Program Timeline 2015/16	11
Section E. Contacts	12

# **A. Nevada English Learner Program- Senate Bill 405: Zoom Grant Districts**

## **Historical Background**

The 2013 77<sup>th</sup> Nevada legislative session delivered groundbreaking legislation for Nevada’s English Language (ELs). Senate Bill 504 (SB 504), signed into law in June of 2013, stated that “children who are limited English proficient benefit from instruction that is designed to address the academic and linguistic needs of those children” [SB 504 Sec.2.1(b)]. “It is the intent of the Legislature that children who are limited English proficient be provided with services and instruction which is designed to address the academic needs of such children so that those children attain proficiency in the English language and improve their overall academic and linguistic achievement and proficiency” [SB 504 Sec 2.1(c)].

## **Introduction**

During the 78<sup>th</sup> Nevada legislative session, Governor Sandoval supported the expansion of programs and services for English Learners through Senate Bill 405 (SB 405). Through SB 405, significant increased funding was appropriated for Clark and Washoe County School Districts to continue the programming of Zoom elementary schools and to expand programs and services to secondary schools during the 2015-17 biennium. SB 405 also authorizes school districts other than Clark and Washoe and the governing body of a charter school to apply to the Department of Education for a grant to provide programs and services to eligible children who are English Learners.

With the increased focus on program accountability, SB 405 requires the State Board of Education to prescribe statewide performance levels and outcome indicators to measure the effectiveness of the programs and services. SB 405 also requires the Department of Education to contract for an independent evaluation of the effectiveness of the programs and services provided by the school districts and charter schools that received SB 405 funding.

This document is intended to provide guidance related to the implementation of SB 405. Districts are encouraged to review the full text of SB 405 available at the following link:

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Bill/2043/Overview>

## **NDE State Goals and Theory of Action**

State law requires the State Board of Education to develop an annual plan to improve the achievement of pupils enrolled in Nevada public schools. This plan, commonly referred to as the “State Improvement Plan,” or “STIP,” is prepared for Board consideration by the Superintendent of Public Instruction and staff of the NDE, as well

as a variety of stakeholders. The focus of the current plan is college and career readiness of all students in the K-12 public education system, as well as the system's own state of readiness for fully realizing the kind of change required by recent reform initiatives, such as Zoom Schools, and the current realities of Nevada's student population. Guiding the department's work are the established goals of the STIP:

- Goal 1: All students are proficient in reading by the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.
- Goal 2: All students enter high school with the skills necessary to succeed.
- Goal 3: All students graduate college and career ready.
- Goal 4: Effective educators serving students at all levels.
- Goal 5: Ensure efficient and effective use of public funds to achieve the highest return on education investment.

Aligned with the state goals, the NDE's Theory of Action on statewide initiatives describes the department's orientation and focus on the imperative of preparing Nevada's children for future success. It also demonstrates its commitment to the goals of the Zoom Schools program by strategically aligning specific programs to target improved outcomes for students. The current Theory of Action is as follows:

***If the state***

- *Provides for differentiated funding based on student need,*
- *Balances local implementation with statewide evaluation for purposes of accountability,*
- *Ensures alignment and effective use of existing and new programs and resources across the State, and*
- *Supports and assists Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to improve outcomes for all students ...*

***And, if Local Education Agencies (LEAs) or School Districts (SDs):***

- *Align and use resources effectively to meet the needs of students,*
- *Improve learning conditions for all students,*
- *Drive innovation and change in low-performing schools,*
- *Recruit and retain effective educators...*

***Then our state's children will***

- *Be proficient readers upon exit from third grade,*
- *Be adequately prepared in middle school to engage and succeed in rigorous high school curriculum,*
- *Graduate from high school college and career ready, and*
- *Be served by effective educators.*

The statewide Theory of Action is coupled with the Theory of Action for Underperforming Schools. This Theory of Action is specifically focused on moving underperforming schools towards successful outcomes for students. Zoom Schools are not only designated due to their English Learner status, but they are also designated due to their low-performing status. The following Theory of Action guides the NDE's

work with Underperforming Schools and, to a certain extent, the department's work with Zoom Schools:

*If the NDE provides underperforming schools with a structured diagnostic and planning process focused on three priority areas:*

- *School leadership,*
- *Tier 1 instruction aligned to standards,*
- *Teacher professional learning communities that analyze and use data to strengthen instruction; and*

*Districts provide schools with the conditions required for successful school turnaround, including freedom from certain all district programs and requirements and the freedom and resources to identify and build programs and capacity to address their specific needs; and*

*The NDE identifies external organizations that can provide schools with support in diagnostic and planning and the three priority areas; and*

*The NDE establishes a Leadership Network to support school leaders; and*

*The NDE, school and district leaderships utilize all available resources to provide schools with that support; and*

*The NDE works with schools, district and support organizations to monitor implementation and identify and solve problems; and*

*The NDE, Districts, and Schools build shared social trust among parents, students, teachers, administrators and staff;*

***Then all underperforming schools will exit their low-performing status within three years.***

Alignment of the department's work is key towards moving schools to successful outcomes for Nevada's students. NDE Goals and Theory of Action guides and focuses the work necessary for rapid and improved achievement for all of Nevada's students.

## ***B. Zoom Grant District Program Selection (districts other than Clark and Washoe)***

### **B.1. Participating SB 405 Schools**

Zoom Grant Districts are to determine which allowable SB 405 programs and services for English Learners will be provided and will submit to the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) an application that includes:

1. the number of pupils in the school district or charter school who are English Learners (ELs); and
2. a description of the programs and services the school district or charter school will provide with SB 405 funds [*SB 405 Sec. 1.8(a-b)*].

### **B.2. Restriction on Multiple Designations**

No school may be eligible to receive funding from more than one of the following state grants: Zoom, Victory, and Read by Third Grade. It may be possible in a rural or small school context where a Zoom school may apply for a Read by Third Grade grant.

### **B.3. Report to State of Zoom Grant District Programs and Services**

On or before August 1, 2015 Zoom Grant Districts shall submit to the Department of Education the required information through the ePAGE system that includes:

- a list of the SB 405 programs and services that will be provided by the Zoom Grant Districts; and
- the plan for carrying out the programs and services, including the names of schools/sites where the programs and services will be provided [*SB 405 Sec 1.11(b)*].

## **C. Zoom Grant District Requirements**

### **C.1. SB 405 Programs and Services**

SB 405 allows Zoom Grant Districts to provide one or more of the following programs and services:

- Creation or expansion of Prekindergarten programs;
- Acquisition of reading assessment tools and/or the implementation of technology-based tools to support EL student learning;
- Professional Development;
- Summer School or Before/After school activities;
- Family Engagement opportunities;
- Offer Recruitment and Retention Incentives;
- Other evidenced based programs [Sec 1.8(b)(1-7)].

SB 405 requires that districts shall not use more than 2% of the SB 405 money for the purposes of:

- Professional Development,
- Recruitment and Retention Incentives, and
- Family Engagement (SB 405 Sec 1.10).

#### **To clarify:**

- *The total amount of SB 405 funds spent on Professional Development, Recruitment and Retention Incentives, and Family Engagement, inclusively, cannot exceed 2% of the SB 405 allocation.*

### **C.2. Use of Funds and Allocations**

All SB 405 funds must be used only for allowable programs and services as identified in SB 405 sec 1.8(b)(1-7). The funds may not be used for any other purpose.

Zoom Grant Districts must be able to account for funds separately, may not be used to settle or arbitrate disputes, and may not be used to adjust the district-wide schedules of salaries and benefits of the employees of a school district [SB 405 Sec 1.18(a-c)].

The 2015-16 allocations to districts are based on the 2014-15 K-12 count of ELs in each district at a rate of \$660 per pupil. Each district must submit an application for funds through the ePAGE system (details provided in section C.4. of this guidance). The awards are not competitive. Carryover of unused funds is allowable for the first year (2015-16). Funds not expended by June 30, 2017 will revert to the state.

Districts	Number of K-12 ELLs SY 2014-15	Allocation FY 2015-16
Carson City	1,385	\$915,016
Churchill	276	\$182,343
Douglas	334	\$220,661
Elko	1,119	\$739,280
Esmeralda	13	\$8,589
Eureka*	6	\$3,964
Humboldt	461	\$304,565
Lander	94	\$62,102
Lincoln	12	\$7,928
Lyon	524	\$346,187
Mineral*	14	\$9,249
Nye	368	\$243,124
Pershing	47	\$31,051
Storey*	1	\$661
State Charter Authority	783	\$517,298
White Pine	33	\$21,802
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,470</b>	<b>\$3,613,820</b>

### C.3. Monitoring and Data Collection

Districts, in collaboration with the NDE, are responsible for ensuring that SB 405 programs and services are implemented with fidelity at each of the participating schools/sites. Additionally, the NDE will conduct monitoring to verify that SB 405 programs and services are being implemented appropriately as defined in the district plans. NDE will contact districts to schedule annual monitoring for the SB 405 programs and services and reserves the right to schedule more monitoring if deemed necessary. Monitoring may include, but is not limited to, on-site or desktop monitoring, district meetings, conference call and webinars.

To meet the annual report deadline for 2016, Zoom Grant Districts are asked to submit data results by May 15, 2016 to be included in the Annual Report [SB 405 Sec 15-16].

### C.4. Application Process

Zoom Grant Districts will submit an application for SB 405 funds through the ePAGE system, NDE's Electronic application and grant management system. The ePAGE system is available at: <http://ePAGE.doe.nv.gov/ePAGE/user/signin.aspx>. The 2015-16 ePAGE application will be available July 1, 2015 and is due August 1, 2015.

SB 405 requires the submission of district-level programs and services plans. Zoom Grant Districts must submit a plan for implementing the SB 405 programs and services through the ePAGE system by August 1, 2015 [SB 405 Sec 1.8]. This is done by



completing the SB 405 District Programs and Services Plan template and by uploading the file as a “Related Document” in the district ePAGE Application for SB 405 Funds. The Nevada Department of Education reserves the right to require Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to amend any and all applications before subgrant awards are approved.

Schools within Zoom Grant Districts that provide SB 405 programs and services should integrate a description of all school improvement efforts into a consolidated school performance plan (SPP). NDE will be providing guidance to districts and schools on how this will be achieved. At a minimum, schools providing SB 405 programs and services will need to include those activities on the SPP’s budget page. Additionally, NDE staff will guide schools to also include information relative to SB 405 activities within their Comprehensive Needs Analysis as well as Action Steps under identified goals. The school will need to update the SPP prior to the SB 405 monitoring.

### **C.5. New Requirements: Implementation Procedures and Performance Levels**

SB 405 requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to prescribe specific criteria and procedures for identifying and notifying a district or charter school that is not implementing the programs and services for which the SB 405 were allocated.

The statute also directs the SBE to prescribe statewide performance levels and outcome indicators to measure the effectiveness of the programs and services for which the SB 405 funds were allocated. Performance levels and outcome indicators will track short-term and long-term impacts on the progress of children who participate in the programs and services. Zoom Grant Districts will be accountable for progress of students in acquiring language proficiency and academic achievement and growth in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

As the SBE establishes new policies related to SB 405 further guidance will be provided to districts.

If it is determined that a school district is not implementing the programs or services for which it received money or does not meet the performance levels prescribed by the State Board of Education, a plan of corrective action must be developed and implemented and that results in meeting the requirements and/or performance levels *[SB 405 Sec 1.12(b)]*.

### **C.6. Assessment**

In order for districts to demonstrate that Zoom Grant Districts are achieving SBE prescribed performance levels, participating schools will need to assess student performance using assessments identified in the SB 405 District Programs and Services Plan template.

To measure English Language acquisition, the State of Nevada prescribes WIDA assessments (E.g. ACCESS 2.0, ALT ACCESS, MODELS).

To measure academic achievement and growth in language arts and mathematics, the state of Nevada is in the process of determining allowable assessments that are valid and reliable. Until then, Zoom schools must measure academic achievement and growth in language arts and mathematics, using assessments that are valid and reliable.

## **C.7. Evaluation**

SB 405 outlines two specific program evaluation components: an NDE-generated evaluation report of districts and an independent evaluation (*SB 405 Sec 14 & 15*).

Districts will collect and submit their own data in preparation for the NDE-generated evaluation report based on data analysis to be submitted as part of the annual report.

As required by law, the NDE will also contract for an independent evaluation of the effectiveness of the programs and services offered under SB 405. Information regarding the independent evaluation process will be provided to school districts through the NDE website.

## **C.8. Annual Report**

Through collaboration, NDE will establish a consistent format for districts to submit data for the required annual report. By law, this report will include (*SB 405 Sec 15*):

1. A list of identified schools that received money from the districts;
2. The amount of money each school received;
3. A description of the programs or services for which the money was used;
4. The number of children who participated in programs offered;
5. The average per-child expenditure per program or service funded;
6. An evaluation of the effectiveness of such programs and services, including data regarding the academic and linguistic achievement and proficiency of children who participated in the programs or received services; and
7. A list of any recommendations for legislation including:
  - a. The continuation or expansion of programs; and
  - b. A plan for transitioning the funds from a categorical funding to weighted funding.

NDE will complete and submit the annual report for 2015-16 on or before June 15, 2016 (*SB 405 Sec 16*).

### **Section D. Zoom School/Program Timeline 2015/16:**

The following timeline outlines the estimated/proposed dates for SB 405 activities:

<b><i>PROPOSED TIMELINE for Zoom Schools/Zoom Programs</i></b>	
<b>DATE</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>
July 1, 2015	Initial Guidance for Zoom Grant Districts released
July 1, 2015	SB 405 ePAGE Application released by NDE
August 1, 2015	2015-16 Zoom Grant District Application due in ePAGE
August 17, 2015	NDE submission of SB 405 report due to Director of Legislative Counsel Bureau
May 15, 2016	Zoom Grant Districts submit SB 405 programs and services data to NDE for Annual Report
June 15, 2016	Annual Report to the Legislative Committee on Education submitted by NDE
June 30, 2016	End of FY16
August 15, 2016	SB 405 FY16 Final Financial Report (FFR) due to NDE

## Section E: Contacts

Zoom NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CONTACTS		
Name	Title	Contact Information
Jane Splean	Supervisor, Office of School and Support Services, EL Services	775-687-9148 <a href="mailto:jsplean@doe.nv.gov">jsplean@doe.nv.gov</a>
Blakely Hume	Education Programs Professional, EL Services	775.687.9192 <a href="mailto:bhume@doe.nv.gov">bhume@doe.nv.gov</a>
Karl Wilson	Education Programs Professional, EL Services	702-668-4311 <a href="mailto:karlwilson@doe.nv.gov">karlwilson@doe.nv.gov</a>