

Region 9 Coordinating Council

Meeting Minutes

2002 Sudderth Dr. - Ruidoso, NM 88345

Date & Time: September 16, 2026, 9:00 AM

Chair Gillespie called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Members present: Mr. Patterson, Ms. Gutierrez, Ms. Dumlao, and Ms. Encinias, all via Zoom. In-person: Ms. Gillespie.

Absent: Ms. Hawk and Ms. Montoya.

Ms. Montoya is present at 9:04 a.m. via Zoom.

Chair Gillespie requested a motion to approve the order and content of the agenda. Ms. Gutierrez made the motion, and a second was provided by Mr. Patterson. A roll call vote ensued; Ms. Gutierrez-yes, Mr. Patterson-yes, Ms. Montoya-no reply, Ms. Encinias-yes, Ms. Gillespie-yes. With members voting in favor, the motion passed.

Ms. Dumlao was present at 9:05 am.

Chair Gillespie requested a motion to approve the consent agenda, which included the following:

- Previous Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes -August 19, 2026
- Previous Month's Voucher August 2026
- Budget Adjustment Requests (BARS)

Mr. Dooley gave a summary of the Budget Adjustment Requests (BARS) and noted that there are several BAR increases. He also reported that the Legislative Capital Outlay funding that Region 9 has applied for over the past 3-4 years was awarded. Mr. Dooley provided a breakdown of how the awarded funds will be allocated. The Capital Outlay award totaled \$626,000.

- \$173,250.00 will be used to support the EHS Security
- \$9,306.00 will be for the remaining R9 Electrical at the main office
- \$75,000.00 will be used to support the R9 Downstairs bathrooms
- \$121,000.00 will be used for the R9 walkways.

There was also a BAR increase for the Safe and Healthy Schools Attendance Review in which PED provided an additional \$200,000 to help support the event they will hold. Three BAR increases were also listed for Head Start, including Head Start donations and the Early Childhood Education Care Department Food Security Bridge Grant. There was also a decrease BAR for Head Start so that it would align with the beginning budget balance and with the actual balance. Lastly, the Operational BAR of \$2,000,000 was also presented. This amount includes the rollover of the \$1,244,108 unused FY 26 balance, along with the additional funding to support anticipated change orders for the new Early Head Start construction project located at 143 El Paso Road.

Mr. Patterson made the motion to approve the consent agenda, and Ms. Encinias provided a second. A roll call vote ensued; Mr. Patterson-yes, Ms. Encinias-yes, Ms. Montoya-yes, Ms. Gutierrez-yes, Ms. Dumlao-yes. With members voting in favor, the motion passed.

Chair Gillespie requested a motion to approve the HS-EHS -PreK Approvals, which included:

- R9 PreK Salary Schedule required Salary Schedule
- R9 Head Start - EHS

Mr. Dooley mentioned that ECECD reached out to Region 9 regarding the need to align salary schedules for Educational Assistants and Pre-K Teachers with the required rates. To comply with these requirements, Region 9 will adjust the salary schedule to establish a minimum rate of \$18.00 per hour for Educational Assistants and a minimum annual salary of \$55,000 for Pre-K Teachers. This adjustment will bring the Region 9 Pre-K Teacher/Educational Assistant positions into alignment with the required salary structure. For Pay Periods 3-11, the Pre-K Teacher/Educational Assistant position will be calculated at 35%, with the remaining 65% based on the Head Start Salary Schedule Rate for FY 2026-2027, using a 7.5-hour daily rate, to ensure compliance. The grant application that will be discussed shortly also includes provisions related to reindexing salary schedules. As part of the process, Region 9 is working on reindexing the EHS-HS salary schedules in November, with the proposed changes to be presented to the Coordinating Council for approval.

Ms. Encinias made the motion, and a second was provided by Mr. Patterson. A roll call vote ensued; Ms. Encinias-yes, Mr. Patterson-yes, Ms. Montoya-yes, Ms. Gutierrez-yes, Ms. Dumlao-yes, and Ms. Gillespie-yes. With members voting in favor, the motion passed.

R9 Head Start-EHS FY 27 Funding Grant Application, which includes:

- Budget & Budget Justification
- T/TA Plan
- Cost Allocation Plan

Ms. Goeller gave an overview of the R9 HS-EHS FY 2027 Funding Grant Application. She mentioned that the annual report is completed each year and provides a detailed breakdown by service areas, including enrollment and eligibility by percentages, income eligibility, family types, parent information, types of services provided, data for the previous year, dental care, immunization status, volunteer and community partners, and school readiness goals. As they go into this school year, goals will be reassessed after parent-teacher conferences in October. Also included in the application are the budget, proposed budget, and results of the most recent review. A couple of noncompliances were received in January; they have been addressed and will be corrected by the next review and brought to the coordinating council.

The justification lays out how the money will be spent for each program: EHS-HS. The Head Start Programs Operations budget is \$1,080,959, and T/TA is \$16,175. Early Head Start Program Operations are \$1,214,543, and T/TA is \$18,281. This continued funding will support services to 44 EHS children at the Early Head Start Program and 54 Head Start children in Lincoln County. The entire budget reflects twelve months and includes a request for indirect costs at 8%. The budget also includes fringe benefits, contractual services, and other direct costs such as rent, utilities, building maintenance, and other necessary program expenses. Funding is also allocated for training and technical assistance. Chair Gillespie requested a motion to approve the Budget & Budget Justification, T/TA Plan, and Cost Allocation Plan. Ms. Gutierrez made the motion, and a second was provided by Mr. Patterson. A roll call vote ensued; Ms. Gutierrez-yes, Mr. Patterson-yes, Ms. Montoya-yes, Ms. Encinias-yes, Ms. Dumlao-yes, and Ms. Gillespie-yes. With members voting in favor, the motion passed.

Discussion and possible action to revise meeting dates and times

Region 9 Coordinating Council members discussed having a Superintendent Roundtable discussion for the months of October, November, and December. Mr. Dooley proposed having Lee Ann Gandy from CES facilitate the roundtable. In conversation with Mr. Dooley, Ms. Gandy was thrilled to have the opportunity to engage in roundtable discussions with the superintendents and feels that having a smaller group would allow for deeper and richer conversations. Members expressed interest in having Ms. Gandy facilitate the roundtable discussions. Superintendents will submit topics of interest to Ms. Gillespie for consideration and inclusion in the roundtable discussions.

The roundtable discussions will take place every third Wednesday of the month immediately following the regularly scheduled Region 9 Coordinating Council Meetings, either in person or via Zoom. Lunch and breakfast will be provided for that day.

During the roundtable sessions, Ms. LeeAnne Gandy will use information gained to assist the superintendents with their pre-planning for developing their strategic plan where superintendents will establish up to three strategic goals for Region 9 for the next three to five years and with the opportunity to revise the goals as needed. Establishing these goals will provide a clear vision of Region 9's priorities and allow time during future meetings to discuss progress and identify areas of focus. To ensure the goals are meaningful and actionable, it will be important to build the shared knowledge among the superintendents regarding the resources, services, and opportunities available through Region 9.

Mr. Dooley invited members to a field trip to 315 Sudderth Drive to visit the construction site of the new R9 Early Head Start building.

Discussion Items

Mr. Dooley noted that Region 9 directors will provide presentations on their respective departments. The stipend report link was provided, with all of stipends reflecting GPA payments for the month of August. Human Resources also provided an update regarding new hires and resignations. Ms. Freed shared an update regarding changes to the structure of the Region 9 Leadership Meetings. The Leadership Team is composed of all Region 9 supervisors and currently meets monthly on the second Friday of each month. The team is considering moving to a training schedule where the supervisors would only meet five times this year. Ms. Freed also mentioned that Region 9 will have a Leadership Academy that will be available to all Region 9 staff on an application basis. The academy will consist of eight sessions beginning in October. They will learn the history of Region 9 and the funding, and will also incorporate some leadership topics. The last Academy held at Region 9 was right before the pandemic. This year, Region 9 would like to take the group to spend one day at the Legislature. The Leadership Team continues working on the goals for FY 26-27. Goals mentioned that are in process are: recruitment and retention, finalizing evaluations, disciplinary processes, improving communication with member districts, and strengthening organizational trust and alignment.

April Lindsay provided the Education Services Report and shared updates regarding professional development and support services available to Region 9 member districts. Ms. Lindsay noted that Cirsten Vega, Special Education Coordinator, has scheduled professional development opportunities, including training on NM Teams and the new IEP template. Mentorship training and CPI training are also scheduled. Dawn Wood and Tylee Whipple are working to schedule their first meeting regarding Academic Competition and have reached out to the districts. Links were provided for the Professional Development Log and the Region 9 newsletter. Ms. Lindsay then mentioned the services available to Region 9 member districts, including technical assistance, direct services, and professional development supporting both special education and general education. Region 9 staff provide support in member schools in a variety of areas, including:

- Math Coaches
- Mentorship Coaches
- Literacy Coaches
- Educational Technology Specialists
- Gifted Education Coaches
- Child Find Coordinator
- Medicaid Coordinator
- Health Assistant Services
- Related Services

Additional areas of support and ongoing work include Title IX, as well as PBIS support and SAT support.

School-Based Health Center Report

Ms. McEwen mentioned the hours of operation for the School-Based Health Center and presented the August Service Hours, which she will provide monthly to the Coordinating Council.

Technology Report

The technology report was given by Stacy Wren, who provided a summary of completed tickets. Shane Villado then gave a presentation on cybersecurity. He mentioned that a tabletop exercise is scheduled to take place in Las Cruces on October 20, 2026. He highly recommended that Superintendents and Business Managers attend, the session will also have a topic related to E-Rate. Mr. Villado also discussed the KnowBe4 security training accounts that have been set up for the districts. Simulated phishing campaigns will begin soon as part of the security awareness training. The technology team continues to evaluate email security solutions, as email remains one of the primary ways threat actors target districts. An AI agent that could monitor emails across multiple districts and Region 9 was also discussed. A cost-sharing model was presented for the districts to review.

Home Visiting

Home Visiting report was given by Michelle Burge. She presented a table breakdown of the families they are serving in both Lincoln and Otero Counties. A playgroup in Corona is being scheduled, and they are also coordinating to have a playgroup in Tularosa. PIECE is working on their Strategic Plan to support families in Lincoln County. PIECE is hopeful for program funding for January through June.

Head Start-EHS Report

Calla Goeller presented the HS-EHS report by mentioning the BOA charges for both programs. She will have them listed each month separately for transparency and also the status report for meals, snacks, enrollment, professional development, and parent/family.

Construction Report

Mr. Phipps was not able to attend the meeting; however, Mr. Dooley provided the report for Field Operations on his behalf. He reviewed the project change orders for EHS, which included the alarm system installation, freezer-cooler installation, plumbing, and the status of the water supply quotes that have been received. Mr. Dooley also presented pictures of the project, consisting of the stormwater drain in the back of the building and retaining walls. He provided an update on the HVAC and electrical services currently being installed. The project continues to progress, and the site is expected to be ready for the stem wall to be poured this Thursday.

Internal Supports Report

Amy Duncan provided an overview and outlined the events scheduled for September. Currently, two teams are attending events this week. Today, a team is working the event for Back to School in Albuquerque.

IGA

Mr. Dooley provided the monthly update on Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs). At this time, Region 9 has no pending IGAs. Mr. Dooley also shared information regarding a grant opportunity available to support math and literacy initiatives. Links to the information flyers were provided for districts that may be interested in applying.

Items for Next Meeting

No items were mentioned at this time. Chair Gillespie stated that the Superintendents who would like an item placed on the agenda should notify her prior to the next meeting.

Adjournment

Chair Gillespie requested a motion to adjourn. Ms. Encinias made the motion, and Ms. Gutierrez seconded at 10:44 a.m.; the meeting adjourned.



Jocelyne Gillespie Chair

October 21, 2026