



UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Utah State Board of Education

FROM: Brad C. Smith
Chief Executive Officer

DATE: December 3-4

ACTION: Guidance Needed for Progression of the Board Strategic Plan

Background:

The State Board of Education determined that in order to align policy, practices, and resources for improved student outcomes, it is imperative to have a strategic plan that clearly articulates vision for education stakeholders. The process of developing this plan began with a Board retreat/meeting where an overall vision was outlined. This was followed by a series of five strategic planning sessions where Board members, Utah State Office of Education staff and various education stakeholders were invited to provide feedback and suggestions into the development of the plan.

Key Points:

Staff have redesigned the strategic plan's formatting in response to suggestions from Board Members.

Anticipated Action:

The Standards and Assessment Committee will receive the information and give further guidance to the full Board and staff on how to proceed.

Contact: Sydnee Dickson, Deputy Superintendent, 801-538-7515
Emilie Wheeler, Board Communication Specialist, 801-707-8421

UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN

2015-2025

PURPOSE

The foundation of the Utah public education system is to provide an opportunity for educational achievement for every Utah student that rivals the very best in the nation. This requires advocacy, focus, and prioritization of effort. We commit to continuous improvement to achieve these ends.

PROCESS

The State Board of Education determined that in order to align policy, practices, and resources for improved student outcomes, it is imperative to have a strategic plan that clearly articulates vision for education stakeholders. The process of developing this plan began with a Board retreat/meeting where an overall vision was outlined. This was followed by a series of five strategic planning sessions where Board members, Utah State Office of Education staff and various education stakeholders were invited to provide feedback and suggestions into the development of the plan.

IMPERATIVES

I. Educational Equity: Excellence for Each Student

“Educational equity” means setting the conditions in which each student can excel. Recognizing that each student is unique, resources, policies, and practices should be aligned to high expectations and successful outcomes for each student where diversity is recognized and appreciated.

Near-term (1-3 years)

- Expand Optional Extended Day Kindergarten, with targeted expansion aimed toward students who are economically disadvantaged or learning English as a second language
- Enact statewide kindergarten assessment to collect readiness baseline data
- Expand opportunities for preschool and early learning, with a focus on expanding private/public partnerships

- Provide technology grants to qualifying LEAs to engage students and teachers in digital teaching and learning
- Refine and redeploy K-3 reading program
- Establish student services section and fund student services director position
- Provide technical assistance to LEAs for equitable education practices
- Support Equitable Distribution of Effective Educators Plan

Mid-term (4-6 years)

- Develop and deploy 6-8 grade mathematics program, focusing on funding best middle-years mathematics practices from high performing schools and providing professional development on mathematics content pedagogy
- Implement standards based systems with strong accountability systems

Long-term (7-10 years)

- Raise ACT performance by 1.5 points
- Increase high school graduation rate to 90 percent

II. Instructional Quality: Effective Educators Engaged with Each Student

Each student deserves to be engaged with high quality instruction in every classroom. By focusing resources on instructional quality, student achievement will increase to levels of intended learning targets. Placing the focus on learning is a key to high student achievement.

Near-term (1-3 years)

- Fully fund growth in WPU
- Study working conditions for educators in Utah public schools
- Review and change compensation measures mandated by state law

Mid-term (4-6 years)

- Engage in robust monitoring process of preparation programs for teacher and leader licensure
- Increase educator compensation statewide
- Increase educator compensation in geographically hard-to-staff schools (primarily border schools) in return for long-term commitments to school
- Review and revise licensure policies
- Fully fund below-the-line programs

- Provide professional learning qualifying grants to LEAs
- Provide tools to LEAs for evaluation of effectiveness of professional learning
- Implement and fund educator leadership academy

III. Educational Leadership: Empowered and Effective Leaders at Every Level

Education leaders set the conditions and climate in schools and systems for student success. Working with leaders (at schools, districts, and Utah State Office of Education) on systemic practices and policies will lead to the conditions that provide for system efficiencies and improvements in student outcomes.

- Implement Enterprise accounting system
- Hire compliance officer, managerial accountants, and support staff
- Align all State Board staff provided leadership programs
- Review educator-leader and administrator licensure

IV. Engagement: All Education Stakeholders Committed to an Excellent System

In order to achieve a standard of excellence that propels Utah into the top tier of education systems, all stakeholders must come together to support higher expectations for students and the educators who service them, in addition to increased resources targeted at improved outcomes for each student.

- Create a clear, consistent summary of Board responsibilities and obligations
- Create an efficient and productive relationship between the State Board and its statewide partners
- Directly or indirectly guide the statewide conversation on education issues
- Implement a working strategy of messages that corresponds with specific target audiences
- Receive input and partner with target audiences