



Meeting Minutes

Utah State Board of Education

Utah State Board of Education Board Meeting,
Continued Business from the previous meeting on April 4, 2025,
Utah School for the Deaf and Blind (USDB)
and USBE Work Session.
1:00 to 4:00 PM

A regular [Utah State Board of Education meeting](#) was held on April 4, 2025. Chair Hymas presided. As Utah Code 52-4 authorized, this meeting was held at the state board offices, 250 E. 500 S, Salt Lake City, Utah. The public can view the discussion through live YouTube streaming.

Members Present

Board Chair Matt Hymas	Member Jennie Earl
First Vice-Chair Molly Hart	Member Cole Kelley
Second Vice-Chair LeAnn Wood	Member Joseph Kerry
Member Christina Boggess	Member Carol Lear
Member Amanda Bollinger	Member Sarah Reale
Member Emily Green	Member Joann Brinton
Member Rod Hall	

Members Online

Member Randy Boothe

Members Absent

Member Cindy Davis

Executive Staff Present

Sydnee Dickson, State Superintendent
Scott Jones, Deputy Superintendent
Elisse Newey, Deputy Superintendent
Leah Voorhies, Interim Deputy Superintendent

Minutes were taken by:

Cybil Prideaux, Executive Assistant

Chair Hymas called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM.

Utah School for the Deaf and the Blind (USDB) Board Meeting

Monthly Budget Update as of February 28, 2025

Carl Empey, Finance Director, provided the board with an updated Monthly Financial update as of February 28, 2025.

USDB Standing Committee Update

LeAnn Wood, Board Member, provided an update on the committee's discussions.

Public Education Appropriations Memorandum Response Timeline

Legislative Directives and Appropriations

- The USDB Committee will begin its work by addressing questions and recommendations from the Utah Legislature's PEA subcommittee and Executive Appropriations (EAC) committee. A report to the former is due in October and the latter in November.
 - o The questions relate to USDB's governance role, scope of services, funding, student obligations, and the provision of school capital facilities.
 - o The most urgent items are the scope of services, funding for students, the obligation of LEAs, and providing services and facilities.
 - o USDB must work within the base budget of approximately \$55 million.
- USDB does not have the space or personnel for all students needing services. Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the USDB cannot explicitly state that they don't have the capacity.
- The local school district is responsible for providing services outlined in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP). Placement refers to how close to nondisabled peers a student receives their services as required by the IEP.
 - o For deaf and hard-of-hearing students using American Sign Language for

communication, placement in a special school (i.e., Utah School for the Deaf) may be necessary to ensure access to peers and teachers who communicate in their language.

school o The fee schedule gives USDB authority to collect funds for services from districts and charter schools.

- The most immediate need is to address how to provide services to students whose needs will not be met after the cuts to USDB funding.

service o There is a need to backfill 11 current staff positions to maintain current levels.

- A legislative audit of USDB is expected to address questions from the Legislative Fiscal Analyst. A partnership between the USBE audit committee and the legislative auditors might allow for simultaneous fiscal and program audits.

Action Items and Next Steps

- A work/study session was determined necessary to examine individual student needs and compare USDB offerings with LEA offerings. This meeting would not be public because we would be discussing individual students and employees.
 - o The time will be set after members complete a Doodle poll, with the most popular time chosen.
 - o A deep dive into the scope of services and service needs is the recommended topic of discussion

Given the predicted influx of students, the solutions provided should aim for ongoing sustainability. The analysis should include both temporary and long-term solutions for providing services.

Enrichment Fund Projects

On May 3, 2024, the USBE approved the USDB FY25 Enrichment Funds Project list. Due to the 2025 legislation, the Board requests to amend the allocated funding.

Study Session**2025 Legislative Session Implementation Update**

Shortly after each session, Staff meet as a team to review bills and determine the next steps for implementation related to the Legislative Session. This includes identifying staff leads for specific programs, anticipating Board rule changes, implementing new reporting requirements, and establishing new procurement and contract procedures. Staff will review the 2025 Legislative Session Implementation Summary and answer questions.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN was made by Member Kerry and seconded by Member Green.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2:27 PM.

The executive assistant took the meeting minutes.
The minutes were approved on May 1, 2025.