

Board Summary

December 5, 2024 Board Meeting

The Utah State Board of Education:

- Elected board leaders to serve during the Board's upcoming 2025-2027 term.
- Heard a presentation on updates and resources related to school safety initiatives.
- Amended Board Rule [R277-123](#), which discusses LEA hotlines, to provide clarity on the hotline referral process, and on the responsibilities of those involved in that process.
- [Full agenda](#).

Board Elects Leadership Team for 2025-2027 Term

The Utah State Board of Education elected Matt Hymas to serve as chair of the 15-member governing board. Hymas, first elected to the Board in 2020, will serve a two-year term as chair and will be joined by Molly Hart and LeAnn Wood as vice chairs.

Board members elect leadership every two years using a preferential voting method and have the option of creating one, two, or three vice chair seats. The newly-elected board chair and vice chairs will assume transition responsibilities, including new committee assignments and setting the agendas for future board meetings.

For additional information, please contact:

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Board Communications Coordinator

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Board Hears Presentation on Updates and Resources Related to School Safety Initiatives

The Utah State Board of Education participated in a presentation and discussion on updates related to school safety initiatives. The School Safety Team and Board Member Kerry facilitated a presentation and discussion on new resources, including the *Utah School Safety Playbook: A Guide for Utah Public Schools*, and initiatives intended to improve safety measures and standards in Utah schools. The Board was given an overview of the School Safety Compliance Framework and the School Safety Needs Assessments, which are intended to help schools implement and improve safety protocols, and receive the safety-related resources and funding they need.

For additional information, please contact:

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Board Approves Interagency Data Sharing Agreement with Department of Workforce Services

The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) has approved the interagency [data sharing agreement with the Department of Workforce Services](#) after Congress authorized a new child nutrition program, Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children (otherwise

known as Summer EBT). This program is one of three child nutrition programs to provide children access to healthy food while schools are out of session for the summer.

This agreement allows the Department of Workforce Services (DWS) to coordinate with the USBE to determine student eligibility for the Summer EBT program from 2025 through 2029. The agreement is similar to the agreement approved by the Board in February, with some slight changes reflecting stronger restrictions on DWS's access to USBE data.

For additional information, please contact:

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Board Approves Renewal of Four-Day School Week Waiver Request from Duchesne County School District

The Utah State Board of Education approved a [waiver renewal request](#) from Uintah River High School in Duchesne County. This district has requested a waiver under [R277-419\(4\)](#), which states that an LEA shall provide educational services over a minimum of 180 school days each school year. The approval allows Duchesne County School District to offer a four-day school week for Uintah River High School.

For additional information, please contact:

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Board Updates Internal Audit Plan

The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) added an audit of the USBE Advisory Committees as part of the [audit plan](#). The goal of the audit is to provide board members with cost-benefit information about the various committees supporting its governance, including logistics (e.g., committee membership, when the committee meets, how long meetings are, staff time and involvement) and performance (e.g., output to the Board, Board use of committee-provided information).

For additional information, please contact:

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Chief Audit Executive

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Board Makes Requests for Statutory Changes

The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) has asked staff to work with legislators on potential [amendments to the Utah Code](#). The statutory change requests include amending Section 36-12-15.3 to clarify roles, responsibilities, processes, and timelines for responding to legislative audits. The Board has also asked for the Office of the Legislative Auditor General and USBE staff to create a list of standardized questions on requirements and reporting that they will ask the legislature when they are creating a fiscal note for a bill.

For additional information, please contact:

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Board Approves Audit Committee and Chief Audit Executive Responsibilities Policy

The Utah State Board of Education approved [Board Policy 2006, Audit Committee and Chief Audit Executive Responsibilities](#). 2024 [HB 244](#) made several changes to the requirements for responding to legislative audits and providing corrective action status updates. Changes to board policy clarify the roles and responsibilities of audit committee leadership and codify the practice of the chief audit executive receiving a copy of draft audit reports (to facilitate response and corrective action status update processes). Additional changes to Board Policy 2006 codify a process for audit reports to be assigned to a standing committee of the Board for review and consideration of action.

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Board Approves Amendments to Board Bylaws

The Utah State Board of Education approved amendments to [Board Bylaws Article IX](#). 2024 [HB 244](#) made several changes to the requirements for responding to legislative audits and providing corrective action status updates. The changes clarify the roles and responsibilities of the State Superintendent and Superintendent of the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.

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Board Approves the MOU between USBE and SCSB

The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) approved the [Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\)](#) between the USBE and the State Charter School Board (SCSB). The purpose of this MOU is to establish a framework for cooperation and collaboration between the Board and the SCSB, clarifying their respective roles and responsibilities in the oversight and support of the SCSB's authorized public charter schools in the state of Utah.

The provisions in the MOU:

1. Clarify the roles of the Board and the SCSB relative to one another.
2. Define how the Board and the SCSB will cooperate and interact when their responsibilities overlap.
3. Refer to or restate certain provisions of Utah Code that relate to the relationship between the Board and the SCSB. The references to Utah Code provisions in this MOU are not exhaustive but are meant to highlight key provisions to clarify the relationship between the two boards.

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Board Approves Use of Discretionary Funds

The Utah State Board of Education approved the use of [discretionary funds](#) for the following:

1. Using \$1,500,000.00 of Federal Mineral Lease (FML) funds for use for compliance with [53G-6-806](#), regarding the Parent Portal with safety data. Staff have been asked to begin using the funds as soon as possible in compliance with the applicable code.
2. Returning the remaining balance from the “Impact of Title IX Changes on Public Schools” project to the State Funds portion of the Discretionary Funds account and then committing \$75,000 of state funds for use by an external firm to advise and assist on the Return on Investment (ROI) evaluation process.
3. Committing \$40,000 of FML funds to add a facilitator to support the Board in developing its strategic plan beginning in January of 2025.

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Deborah Jacobsen

Assistant Superintendent of Operations

New Administrative Rules, Amendments, and Repeals

The Utah State Board of Education approved, amended, or repealed the following administrative rules:

- [R277-801, Services for Students Who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Blind, Visually Impaired, and Deaf Blind](#). This rule is being amended to add an oversight category, and to clarify when USDB is required to provide outreach services for LEAs with less than 3 percent of the student population. The amendments would also allow USDB to put limits on costs and allow the superintendent to designate smaller districts with a larger tax base as ineligible for free services from USDB.
- [R277-927, Teacher and Student Success Act \(TSSA\) Program](#). This rule is being amended to add an oversight category, clarify the definition of capital expenditures in Section 2, and to update how the state average teacher salary is determined for the TSSA program.
- [R277-114, Response to Compliance and Related Issues](#). This rule is being amended to clarify that the rule does not apply to federal programs, with the exception of the appeals section.
- [R277-306, Educator Preparation Programs for School Psychologists, Audiologists, Speech-Language Pathologists, Speech-Language Technicians, Counselors, and School Social Workers](#). This rule is being amended to add an oversight category and technical updates to the rules requirements.
- [R277-419, Pupil Accounting](#). This rule is being amended to reinstate an LEA's ability to convert up to five days at the beginning of the year for a kindergarten pre-assessment and to add an oversight category.
- [R277-722, Procedures for the Focused Graduation Pathway](#). This rule is being created in response to board direction to create a pathway to graduation that is based on the GED test. The new rule includes procedures for LEAs and

individual schools wanting to implement the FGP program, and clarifies what students may be eligible for the program.

- [R277-702, Procedures for the Utah High School Completion Diploma](#). This rule is being amended to be in alignment with the new rule R277-722.
- [R277-123, Process for Members of the Public to Report Violations of Statute and Board Rule](#). This rule is being amended to provide clarity on the USBE Public Education Hotline receipt and referral process, and to define roles and responsibilities to enhance efficiency, and move the requirement for an LEA to have a hotline from R277-113 to R277-123.
- [R277-113, LEA Fiscal and Auditing Policies](#). This rule is being amended to provide clarity on the Hotline receipt and referral process, as well as roles and responsibilities to enhance efficiency, and move the requirement for an LEA to have a hotline from R277-113 to R277-123, which will support that a hotline is for all types of concerns and place hotline related requirements at the state level and local level in proximity.
- [R277-325, Public Education Exit and Engagement Surveys](#). This rule is being updated to include an oversight category.
- [R277-325, Public Education Exit and Engagement Surveys \(Incorporated Document - Engagement Survey\)](#). This rule is being continued.
- [R277-325, Public Education Exit and Engagement Surveys \(Incorporated Document - Exit Survey\)](#). This rule is being continued.

Board Approves Consent Calendar

The Utah State Board of Education approved its consent calendar, including materials listed in the Instructional Materials Fall Report, with the exception of one textbook.

Highlights of Friday's Committee Meetings

The Utah State Board of Education [Standards and Assessments, Finance, and Law and Licensing Committees](#) met on Friday, December 6. Items approved in committee meetings will be heard by the full Board during its January meeting.

Standards and Assessment Committee met in a hybrid format from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Highlights from the meeting included:

- Preliminary approval of [R277-404, Requirements for Assessments of Student Achievement](#).
- Preliminary approval of [R277-607, Absenteeism and Truancy Prevention](#).

Finance Committee met online from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Highlights from the meeting included:

- Preliminary approval of [R277-725, Statewide Online Education Program Contractor Requirements](#).
- Preliminary approval of [R277-726-7, Statewide Online Education Program](#).

Law and Licensing Committee met in a hybrid format from 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Highlights from the meeting included:

- Preliminary approval of [R277-608, Prohibition of Corporal Punishment in Utah's Public Schools](#).
- Preliminary approval of [Data Sharing Agreement with Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity](#)