

Board Summary

January 9, 2025 Board Meeting

The Utah State Board of Education:

- Welcomed new board members and administered the [Oath of Office](#)
- Approved several statutory change requests
- Approved a [policy](#) related to board member compensation
- Updated [R277-631, Student Toilet Training Requirements](#) to provide more specific guidance about students with disabilities or suspected disabilities.
- [Full agenda](#).

Board Swears in Four New Members

The Utah State Board of Education welcomed four [newly-elected individuals](#). Amanda Bollinger, Cole Kelley, Joann Brinton, and Rod Hall affirmed the Oath of Office as board members of the Utah State Board of Education. They will each serve four-year terms. Board Members Carol Barlow Lear, Matt Hymas, Molly Hart, and Randy Boothe also affirmed the Oath of Office as they were re-elected during the 2024 election cycle.

For additional information, please contact:

Kelsey James

Board Communications Coordinator

Phone: (801) 538-7516 | [E-mail](#)

Board Approves Amended Board Member Compensation Policy

The Utah State Board of Education Approved [Board Policy 2001, Board Member Compensation](#), as amended. The policy outlines when board members can receive payments and travel reimbursements for attending specific meetings, such as full board meetings, committee meetings, and legislative sessions, with limits based on budget and appropriations. The policy was updated to clarify the number of meetings board members can attend each year that qualify for compensation. Board members may now be compensated for a total of 84 meetings per year.

For additional information, please contact:

Ben Rasmussen

Director of Law and Professional Practices

Phone: (801) 538-7835 | [E-mail](#)

Board Approves Interagency Data Sharing Agreement with Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity

The Utah State Board of Education has approved an interagency [data sharing agreement](#) with the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity, ETI, and Waterford. The first purpose of this agreement is to identify the SSIDs of students enrolled in UPSTART within the Utah eTranscript and Record Exchange (UTREx), ensuring that a minimum of 90 percent of the children attend kindergarten or first grade in Utah the year after their program enrollment. The goal of this agreement is to allow for evaluation of the efficacy of the UPSTART program that is currently operated by Waterford.

For additional information, please contact:

Katy Challis

Director of Privacy

Phone: (801) 538-7894 | [E-mail](#)

Board Approves CTE Standards

The Utah State Board of Education approved standards for several Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses. Following the Board-approved [CTE course revision process](#), courses are reviewed and updated annually through a program rotation calendar. After working with subject matter experts and industry partners, the [CTE standards](#) for the following courses were submitted to the Board for approval.

1. Data Analytics
2. Apprenticeship
3. FCS Exploration
4. K-12 Teaching as a Profession Capstone
5. Elementary Keyboarding

For additional information, please contact:

Thalea Longhurst

Career & Technical Education Director

Phone: (801) 538-7889 | [E-mail](#)

Board Approves Instructional Materials Review Rubric

The Utah State Board of Education approved the [Instructional Materials Review Rubric](#). The rubric includes updates to the instructional materials review process and a pathway for the incorporation of ethnic studies, as outlined in state code.

For additional information, please contact:

Teri Davis

Educational Specialist

Phone: (801) 538-7655 | [E-mail](#)

Board Prioritizes Funding Requests for the 2025 Legislative Session

The Utah State Board of Education made one revision to the approved [legislative funding requests](#) priorities for the upcoming 2025 General Session. The Board amended the funding request for a uniform student information system to \$35 million one-time funds disbursed over a five-year period to support districts and charters in their current system and reach compliance in the uniform reporting framework.

For additional information, please contact:

Scott Jones

Deputy Superintendent of Operations

Phone: (801) 538-7615 | [E-mail](#)

Sarah Young

Chief of Staff

Phone: (801) 538-7528 | [E-mail](#)

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:

1. Amending Section [53G-6-206](#) to remove certain language and add language regarding informed parental consent, amending [53G-8-211](#) to remove certain language, and unifying the topics addressed in those code sections into a single section of code on Compulsory Education, Truancy, Attendance, and Excused/Unexcused Absences.
2. Supporting changes to First-Time Home Buyers Incentives legislation to allow previously owned homes and expand to include townhouse or other buyers. This request would also direct USBE staff to work with legislative staff on a study nationwide public policy teacher housing initiatives.
3. Amending code regarding Beverley Taylor Sorenson Arts funding from the uniform amount to a “uniform funding formula that promotes the strategic mission of the program and meets the budgetary needs of the legislature.”

For additional information, please contact:

Greg Connell

Policy Analyst

Phone: (801) 538-7957 | [E-mail](#)

Elisse Newey

Deputy Superintendent of Policy

Phone: (801) 538-7764 | [E-mail](#)

New Administrative Rules, Amendments, and Repeals

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

- [R277-725, Statewide Online Education Program Contractor Requirements](#). This rule is being adopted to clarify procedures for enrollment in and operation of the program and to outline the responsibilities of the contractor.
- [R277-608, Emergency Safety Interventions and Prohibition of Corporal Punishment](#). This rule is being amended to include updates from [HB14](#) from the 2024 session and to provide greater clarity to the field.
- [R277-489, Kindergarten Programs and Assessment](#). This rule is being repealed after its sunset date in June of 2024.
- [R277-631, Student Toilet Training Requirements](#). This rule is being updated to provide more specific guidance about students with disabilities or suspected disabilities and clarify that enrollment of students with disabilities is mandatory, despite any toileting issues.
- [R277-404, Requirements for Assessments of Student Achievement](#). This rule is being amended to make changes to UA+ (Utah Aspire Plus) and Kindergarten, including revising the early reading grades to "K-3" and to remove ELA from Utah Aspire Plus.
- [R277-606, Dropout Prevention and Recovery Program](#). This rule is being amended to include broader terms regarding data collection systems to allow for future flexibility.
- [R277-607, Absenteeism and Truancy Prevention](#). This rule is being amended to update the definitions of "truancy", "absence," and "valid excuse" to align with legislation.
- [R277-623, School Climate Survey](#). This rule is being continued upon its five year review.

Board Approves Consent Calendar

The Utah State Board of Education approved its consent calendar.

Highlights of Friday's Committee Meetings

The Utah State Board of Education [Finance, Law and Licensing, and Standards and Assessments Committees](#) met on Friday, January 10. Items approved in committee meetings will be heard by the full Board during its February meeting.

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

- Preliminary repeal of [R277-708, Enhancement for At-Risk Students](#).
- Discussion of program measurement results of [Appropriations for Specific Programs and Related Funding - School](#).

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 [R277-627, Early Warning System](#).
- Preliminary approval of [R277-609, Standards for LEA Discipline Plans and Emergency Safety Interventions](#).

Standards and Assessment Committee met in a hybrid format from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Highlights from the meeting included:

- Preliminary approval of [FCS Exploration Course Standards](#).
- Preliminary approval of [R277-704, Financial and Economic Literacy: Integration Into Core Curriculum](#).