

Board Summary

June 5, 2025 Board Meeting

The Utah State Board of Education:

- Swore in Dr. Molly Hart as Utah's Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Elected Amanda Bollinger as vice chair, succeeding Dr. Hart in the Board's leadership structure.
- Approved the updated Least Restrictive Behavior Intervention manual and corresponding rule.
- Released draft math standards and draft PE standards for public comment.
- [Full agenda](#).

Dr. Molly Hart Sworn in as Utah's New Superintendent of Public Instruction

Dr. Molly Hart was officially sworn in as Utah's new State Superintendent of Public Instruction by Lieutenant Governor Deidre Henderson during a brief ceremony at the Utah State Board of Education. Hart, a seasoned educator and charter school director, took the oath of office on Thursday and will begin her transition immediately. Over the next month, she will work closely with outgoing superintendent Dr. Sydnee Dickson to ensure a smooth and informed handoff of responsibilities. Dickson, who has served as state superintendent since 2016, will step down in July after more than four decades in public education. Hart's appointment marks a new chapter for Utah's public education system as she prepares to lead the state's efforts to support public schools, educators, and students. .

For additional information, please contact:

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Director of Communications

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Amanda Bollinger Elected as Vice Chair

The Utah State Board of Education elected Amanda Bollinger as the [new Vice Chair](#). The position was left vacant after previous Vice Chair Molly Hart was appointed as the next State Superintendent of Public Instruction. [Vice Chair Bollinger](#) joined the Board at the beginning of the year and represents District 9, which includes South Jordan, Riverton, Herriman and parts of West Jordan, Midvale, and Bluffdale. She holds a Master's Degree in Special Education and a Doctorate of Education from the University of Phoenix.

For additional information, please contact:

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Board Communications Coordinator

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Board Approves Budget the Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind

The Utah State Board of Education approved the [FY2026 USDB Budget](#) after a robust discussion on the impact on services and personnel if charging the LEAs 25 percent, as well as 50 percent for services. USDB may charge for all outreach services as deemed necessary to avoid losing the funding needed to provide services, out required by law.

The Board also approved the FY2026 USDB Enrichment Activities Budget.

For additional information, please contact:

Joel Coleman

Superintendent at Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind

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Board To Prepare Budget Recommendations

The Utah State Board of Education has directed staff to prepare potential [funding requests](#) for the following critical FTE needs, data capabilities and information systems, educator preparation hours, and the Beverley Taylor Sorenson Arts Program. Those funding requests will come before the Board for potential approval and prioritization.

For additional information, please contact:

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Assistant Superintendent of Operations 801-538-7627

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Board to Create Variance for San Juan and Tooele Schools and Serve Out of State Students

The Utah State Board of Education has approved [a variance that permits San Juan and Tooele districts](#) to continue enrolling and classifying students who live just across the Utah borders with Arizona and Nevada as Utah residents. This variance is needed

because new requirements mandate that Local Education Agencies submit student geocoordinates to the Utah Regulatory Education Exchange (UTREx). Historically, these districts have served students from neighboring states due to Utah schools being closer than the out-of-state alternatives.

For additional information, please contact:

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Director of Data and Statistics

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Board Establishes Charter School Funding for 2026

Utah State Board of Education has decided how to distribute [funding to charter schools](#) for the fiscal year 2026. The Board will allocate \$200,560 to charter schools with greater than 2,000 students. The remaining one-time funds will be allocated first to charter schools with fewer than 500 students up to \$85,000 and then to the base amount for charter schools with fewer than 2,000 students but more than 500 students. In fiscal year 2024, the state legislature provided \$7,865,000 in ongoing funding and \$1,875,000 in one-time funding for the Charter Funding Base program. Charter schools with more than 2,000 students received \$100 per student. For fiscal year 2025, the one-time funding amount was increased to \$3,600,000.

For additional information, please contact:

Sam Urie

School Finance Director

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Board Approves Data Sharing Agreement with BYU Graduate Student

The Utah State Board of Education took action on a [data sharing agreement](#) with BYU graduate student Liz Bernfield. The agreement will provide student-level data for the purpose of conducting a research study titled "Longitudinal Analysis of Students' Reading Achievement Trends and Correlation with Teachers' Professional Development in Reading." The purpose of the study is to investigate the longitudinal reading achievement of first- through third-grade cohorts of students in Utah, as measured by Acadience Reading, in the four years since their reading teachers commenced Language Essentials for Teaching Reading and Spelling (LETRS) training.

For additional information, please contact:

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Director of Privacy

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Board Approves Two School Counselor-to-Student Ratio Plans

The Utah State Board of Education approved the [Box Elder School District and Syracuse Arts Academy school counselor-to-student ratio plans](#). [R277-462-6, School Counselor to Student Ratio](#) mandates USBE staff gather and report information on counselor-to-student ratios for district and charter schools annually with approved School Counseling Programs that receive funding.

For additional information, please contact:

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School Counseling Specialist

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Board Approves Waiver Requests for Valley Academy and Canyon Grove Academy

The Utah State Board of Education granted new waivers to [Valley Academy Charter](#) and [Canyon Grove Academy](#). Valley Academy Charter requested a waiver from board rule [R277-552-6](#), which includes an October 1 deadline for a new satellite. Canyon Grove Academy requested a waiver from [R277-552-5\(5\)](#), which contains an October 1 deadline for a small expansion.

For additional information, please contact:

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Board Approves Consent Calendar

The Utah State Board of Education approved its consent calendar. Mathematics standards were discussed at length and will be released to the public, along with board member recommendations, to obtain comments and feedback.

New Administrative Rules, Amendments, and Repeals

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

- [R277-632, Funding for At-Risk Students and Students Learning English](#). This rule is being created to establish requirements for the At Risk Add-On Funding Report and be in compliance with state law.
- [R277-480, Charter School Revolving Account](#). This rule is being updated to remove references to the code that was sunsetted and set procedures for charter school revolving loans and the associated committee.
- [R277-609, Standards for LEA Discipline Plans and Emergency Safety Interventions \(Incorporated Document\)](#). This rule is being amended to align with the corresponding rule and require LEAs to document 504 plans with intent to distribute to relevant personnel.
- [R277-609, Standards for LEA Discipline Plans and Emergency Safety Interventions](#). This rule is being amended to add the updated Least Restrictive Behavioral Intervention (LRBI) incorporated document.
- [R277-100, Definitions for Utah State Board of Education Rules](#). This rule is being reviewed prior to its five-year review and update the definition of cumulative file to include documentation of a student's exemption from immunization requirements, add a definition of "success sequence" consistent with [2025 HB 281](#), and add clarification to the definition of suspension to highlight that the UPPAC rules have a separate definition for the term.
- [R277-123, Process for Members of the Public to Report Violations of Statute and Board Rule](#). This rule is being amended at the request of several board members to improve this rule by adding a system to handle public complaints submitted through the hotline and outline the process to address noncompliance.
- [R277-303, Educator Preparation Programs](#). This rule is being amended to add a provision allowing a consortium of private schools to create an APPEL program.
- [R277-313, Student Support Licensing Areas of Concentration](#). This rule is being amended to add definitions and clarify the scope of practice for student support license areas consistent with [2025 HB 281](#).
- [R277-631, Student Toilet Training Requirements](#). This rule is being amended after recommendations by staff to clarify requirements for enrolling students with disabilities.

- [R277-476, Local Innovations Civics Education Pilot Program](#). This rule is being continued upon its five-year review.
- [R277-700, The Elementary and Secondary School General Core](#). This rule is being amended to clarify credits for classes.
- [R277-707, Enhancement for Accelerated Students Program](#). This rule is being continued upon its five-year review.
- [R277-736, Juvenile Court or Law Enforcement Notice and Information Dissemination](#). This rule is being continued upon its five-year review.
- [R277-406, Early Learning Program and Benchmark Assessments \(Incorporated Document\)](#). This document is being amended to be in compliance with [HB 76](#).
- [R277-406, Early Learning Program and Benchmark Assessments](#). This rule is being amended to be in compliance with [HB 76](#).
- [R277-326, Early Learning Professional Learning Grant Program](#). This rule is being continued upon its five-year review.

Meeting Highlights for Friday's Committee Meetings

The Utah State Board of Education [Law and Licensing, Standards and Assessments, and Finance Committees](#) met on Friday, June 7. Any items approved in committee meetings will be heard by the full Board during its August meeting.

Law and Licensing Committee met in a hybrid format from 8:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Meeting highlights include:

- Preliminary approval of [R277-211, Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission \(UPPAC\), Rules of Procedure: Notification to Educators, Complaints and Final Disciplinary Actions](#).
- Preliminary approval of [R277-613, LEA Policies and Training Regarding Bullying, Cyber-bullying, Hazing, Retaliation, and Abusive Conduct](#).

Standards and Assessment Committee met in a hybrid format from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Meeting highlights include:

- Preliminary approval of [R277-606, Dropout Prevention and Recovery Program](#).
- [Preliminary approval of R277-616, Education for Homeless and Emancipated Students](#).

Finance Committee met in a hybrid format from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. Meeting highlights include:

- Preliminary approval of [R277-471, School Construction Oversight, Inspections, Training and Reporting](#).
- Preliminary approval of [R277-445, Classifying Small Schools as Necessarily Existent](#).