

Board Summary

May 2, 2024 Board Meeting

The Utah State Board of Education:

- Approved an initial AI framework for Utah schools.
- Approved a one-year extension of the contract with Scrible.
- Directed staff to create a legislative funding request for a statewide student information system.
- Updated the [teacher evaluation process](#) by adopting an evaluation rating system consistent with new statutory requirements.
- Postponed action on [R277-628, School Libraries](#) until the next full board meeting.
- [Full agenda](#).

Board Approves Initial AI Framework for Utah Schools

The Utah State Board of Education approved an initial AI framework to guide Utah students, staff, and school communities on the appropriate and responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI) in Utah schools. The framework focuses on generative AI tools in classroom instruction, school management, and systemwide operations, where permitted by local policy. Generative AI has both benefits for education and risks that must be thoughtfully managed. Achieving a balance between delivering leading-edge education for our students and safeguarding student information requires collaboration among experts in education and cybersecurity. This AI framework seeks to help schools achieve that balance. The framework will be an ongoing agenda item during the monthly Standards and Assessment committee meeting for continual review and possible updates.

For additional information, please contact:

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Board Approves Extension of Contract with Scrible

The Utah State Board of Education approved a one-year continuation of its [contract with Scrible](#). The contract now runs until September 1, 2025. The cost of the extension as of March 18, 2024, is \$950,000, which will be paid with Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. Teachers and students from around the state reached out to the Board expressing their support for the tool and expressing its benefit to Utah schools, which assists students with research and writing.

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Board Directs Staff to Create a Legislative Funding Request for a Statewide Student Information System

The Utah State Board of Education directed staff to create a legislative funding request for the 2025 general legislative session to support implementation of a [statewide student information system \(SIS\)](#). The Board proposal clarifies that the implementation of the SIS would only be mandatory if there is both ongoing funding and funding to support LEAs during the transition to the new system. The timeline for implementation would be three to four years once the system was funded and procured. This proposal will be brought back to the Board to consider for prioritization and support in the August 2024 board meeting.

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Board Directs Staff to Work with Legislators on Potential Amendments to Utah Code Related to School Fees

The Utah State Board of Education has directed staff to work with legislators on potential [amendments to the Utah Code](#) as proposed regarding school fees definitions. Due to the recent passage of [HB 415](#), Local Education Agencies (LEAs) will be prohibited from charging certain curricular fees in 2025, including instructional equipment supplies. Staff will work with legislators to more clearly define terms related to school fees and separate durable and consumable equipment for the benefit of LEAs.

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Board Approves Using Carry-Forward Balances to Support Rural School Administrative Costs

The Utah State Board of Education approved using carry-forward balances to [support rural school district administrative costs](#). The Board surveyed 16 districts on the impact of not receiving a portion of the previously provided, one-time administrative funds. The new formula proposed to the legislature to replace the Necessarily Existing Small or Isolated Schools (NESS) formula was not approved during the legislative session. These carry-forward balances will help rural schools address existing costs that are not covered by the current NESS formula in code.

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Board Approves Board Policy 5001: Advisory Committee on Equity of Educational Services for Students

The Utah State Board of Education approved [Board Policy 5001, Advisory Committee on Equity of Educational Services for Students](#). Board Policy 5001 has been amended due to the passage of [HB 261](#). It now includes a recommendation from the ACEESS Committee related to attendance and member replacement under certain circumstances. It also includes a sunset date of June 30, 2024.

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Board Approves Board Policy 5008: Student Advisory Council

The Utah State Board of Education approved [Board Policy 5008, Student Advisory Council](#). Board Policy 5008 was amended to update the reimbursement policies to align with other board policies. Instead of sunseting next June, the Student Advisory Council will be held quarterly beginning next school year (2024-2025).

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Board Approves FY25 Public Education Budget

The Utah State Board of Education approved the [Fiscal Year 2025 Public Education Budget](#). A full breakdown of the budget can be found [here](#).

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Board Recognizes Emery High as an Isolated School

The Utah State Board of Education voted in favor of recognizing Emery High School as a [new isolated school](#). Staff have been directed to calculate the redistribution of funding available to these schools to include Emery High School and utilize \$265,000 from the tax delay portion of the Board's discretionary fund to hold the other existing districts with schools in this category harmless for one year.

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New Administrative Rules, Amendments, and Repeals

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

- [R277-490, Beverley Taylor Sorenson Elementary Arts Learning Program](#). This rule is being amended to establish a uniform grant amount for teachers who are funded through this program.
- [R277-303, Educator Preparation Programs](#). This rule is being amended to update educator preparation program requirements.
- [R277-301, Educator Licensing](#). This rule is being amended to update definitions, clarify the timing of license renewals, allow for an extension of an associate

license, update requirements for an associate and out-of-state license, and update candidate appeal rights.

- [R277-115, Local Education Agency \(LEA\) Supervision and Monitoring Requirements of Third Party Providers and Contracts](#). This rule is being continued upon its five-year review.
- [R277-323, Public Educator Evaluation](#). This rule is being created to adopt a new evaluation rating system that is consistent with new statutory requirements.
- [R277-531, Public Educator Evaluation Requirements](#). This rule is being repealed.
- [R277-533, Educator Evaluation Systems](#). This rule is being repealed following the passage of R277-323.
- [R277-733, Adult Education Programs](#). This rule is being amended to clarify that charter schools can receive state legislative funding. The Utah Adult Education Policy and Procedures Guide, which is incorporated by reference, was also approved by the Board.
- [R277-929, State Council on Military Children](#). This rule is being amended to update program requirements in response to feedback from the public.
- [R277-469, Instructional Materials Commission Operating Procedures](#). This rule is being amended following the passage of [HB 534](#), which repeals the State Instructional Materials Commission.
- [R277-932: Information on Public School Options](#). This rule is being amended to require all LEAs to add a link to the USBE website on their LEA websites.
- [R277-480, Charter School Revolving Account](#). This rule is being continued upon its five-year review and amended to align with current practices surrounding the charter school revolving loan.
- [R277-484, Board Reporting Deadline Table \(Incorporated by Reference Document\)](#). This rule is being updated to adjust the submission deadline for the UTREx current year.
- [R277-484, Data Standards](#). This rule is being amended to include updates to the Board Reporting Deadline Table.
- [R277-602, Carson Smith Scholarship Funding and Procedures](#). This rule is being amended following the passage of [SB 44](#).

- [R277-626, Special Needs Opportunity Scholarship Program](#). This rule is being amended following the passage of [SB 44](#).

Board Approves Consent Calendar

The Utah State Board of Education approved its consent calendar as amended.

Highlights of Friday's Committee Meetings and Study Session

The Utah State Board of Education [Finance, Law and Licensing, and Standards and Assessment Committees](#) met on Friday, May 3.

Items approved in committee meetings will be heard by the full Board during its May meeting.

Finance Committee met online from 7:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Highlights from the meeting include:

- Preliminary approval of [R277-407, School Fees](#).
- Preliminary approval of [R277-408, School Fundraising](#).

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

- Preliminary approval of [Board Policy 5003, Student Data Policy Advisory Group](#).
- Preliminary approval of [R277-629, Paid Professional Hours for Educators](#).

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

- Preliminary approval of [R277-436, Gang Prevention and Intervention Programs in the Schools](#).
- Preliminary approval of [R277-730, Kindergarten Programs](#).