

## Springboard School Information

### Overview

[Utah Code 53E-5-301\(12\)](#) and [Utah Code 53E-5-302](#) direct the USBE, beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, to designate a school as a Springboard school.

### What are Springboard Schools?

A district or charter school that has been designated a **Springboard school** by the USBE because the school: Is a non-Title I school; and when ranked according to the percentage of possible points the state awards averaged over three (3) years is:

1. One of the five (5) lowest performing elementary, middle, or junior high schools statewide **OR** is:
2. One of the two (2) lowest performing high schools statewide.

### What is the Timeline for Springboard Designation and support?

- SY 2025-2026 will be the identification of Springboard schools.
- SY 2026-2027 is the first year of implementation.
- SY 2027-2028 is year two (2) of implementation with an exit opportunity.
- SY 2028-2029 is year three (3) of implementation with a second exit opportunity.

### What is the cycle for identification of Springboard Schools?

- The cycle for Springboard designation is every four (4) years beginning in SY 2025-2026.
- The next designation for Springboard schools will be in SY 2029-2030

### What are the requirements for a Springboard school?

- Springboard are required to:
  - Conduct a Needs Assessment and Root Cause Analysis ([Utah Code 53E-5-302](#))
  - Create a School Improvement Plan [Utah Code 53E-5-303\(5\)](#) and [Utah Code 53E-5-304\(8\)\(a\)](#)

- Create a School Improvement Committee [Utah Code 53E-5-303\(1\)](#) or [Utah Code 53E-5-304\(4\)\(a\)](#)
- Partner with a Continuous Improvement Expert [Utah Code 53E-5-303\(4\)](#) or [Utah Code 53E-5-304\(8\)](#)
  - Requires a proposal and subsequent approval by [USB E Utah Code 53E-5-303\(1\)\(a\)](#)
- Provide initial and annual notice and communication or progress [Utah Code 53E-5-303\(6\)\(d\)](#) or [Utah Code 53E-5-304\(11\)\(b\)](#)

### What are the requirements for District Springboard schools?

- Contract with a Continuous Improvement Expert [Utah Code 53E-5-303\(4\)](#)
- Prioritize funding and resources [Utah Code 53E-5-303\(6\)a](#)
- Grant the Springboard school streamlined authority over staff, schedule, policies, budget, and academic programs to implement the school improvement plan [Utah Code 53E-5-303\(6\)b](#)
- Assist the Continuous Improvement Expert with addressing root cause(s) of low performance and in the development of the school improvement plan [Utah Code 53E-5-303\(c\)](#)

### What are the requirements for Charter Springboard schools?

- Contract with a Continuous Improvement Expert [Utah Code 53E-5-304\(8\)](#)
- Assist the Continuous Improvement Expert with addressing root cause(s) of low performance and in the development of the school improvement plan [Utah Code 53E-5-304\(8\)](#)
- In accordance with deadlines established by the state board, a charter school authorizer of a springboard school shall initiate a review to determine whether the charter school is in compliance with the school's charter agreement including the school's established minimum standards for student achievement ([Utah Code 53E-5-304\(1\)](#))

### Who should be on the District School Improvement Committee?

- For school districts ([Utah Code 53E-5-303\(1\)](#)), the required school improvement committee members include but are not limited to:

- the local school board member who represents the voting district where the school is located.
- the school principal.
- three parents of students appointed by the chair of the school community council.
- one teacher at the school appointed by the principal.
- one teacher at the school appointed by the school district superintendent: and
- one school district administrator.

### Who should be on the Charter School Improvement Committee?

- For Charters ([Utah Code 53E-5-304\(4\)](#)), the required school improvement committee members include but are not limited to:
  - a member of the charter school governing board, appointed by the chair of the charter school governing board.
  - the school principal.
  - three parents of students enrolled in the school appointed by the chair of the charter school governing board: and
  - two teachers at the school, appointed by the school principal.

### What is required in the School Improvement Plan?

- School Improvement Plans must include [Utah Code 53E-5-303\(5\)](#):
  - How the school/charter will address root causes of low performance identified in the needs assessment.
  - Include recommendations regarding changes to:
    - School/Charter personnel
    - Culture
    - Curriculum
    - Assessments
    - Instructional practices

- Governance
  - Leadership
  - Finances
  - Policies
  - Other areas necessary to implement the improvement plan.
- Measurable student achievement goals, objectives, and benchmarks to measure progress.
  - Professional development plan that identifies strategies to address problems with instructional practice.
  - Detailed budget specifying how the school improvement plan will be funded including:
    - A plan to assess and monitor progress.
    - A plan to communicate and report data on progress to stakeholders.
    - A timeline for implementation

### **Is there a list of USBE pre-approved Continuous Improvement Expert Providers?**

- Yes. The Center for Continuous School Improvement (CCSI) maintains a list of pre-approved Continuous Improvement Experts who are eligible to respond to a District or Charter Springboard LEA's solicitation for services per [Utah Code 53E-5-305](#)

### **Are there required reporting timelines?**

- Yes. On or before June 1 of the initial remedial year, the school improvement committee must submit the school improvement plan to the local school board for approval [Utah Code 53E-5-303\(7\)](#) or [Utah Code 53E-5-304\(9\)](#)
- On or before July 1, of the initial remedial year, the local school board will submit to USBE their Springboard school improvement plan for approval [Utah Code 53E-5-303\(7\)](#) or [Utah Code 53E-5-304\(9\)](#)
- Annually, a school board or designee shall report to USBE progress towards

the goals, benchmarks, and timetable in the school improvement plan [Utah Code 53E-5-303\(7\)](#) or [Utah Code 53E-5-304\(9\)](#)

### What are the exit criteria for Springboard Schools?

- Springboard schools may exit when they meet the following two exit criteria:
  1. Reduce the gap in performance by one-third between the school's baseline performance from the year they were identified; and
    - i. 55% of all points possible if a school is an elementary, middle, or junior high school; or
    - 57% of all points possible if the school is a high school.
  2. The school's performance must exceed the cut score for the lowest performing 5% of Title I schools from the year the school was identified.
- Springboard schools are eligible to exit Springboard in the third or fourth year after which the school was identified.
- If a Springboard school does not exit within four years, the school may request an extension. See the note below the exit equation examples for more information.

### What are the implications for a Springboard schools that fail to exit?

Per [Utah Code 53E-5-306\(3\)\(a\)](#) a Springboard school that fails to exit in the fourth year may petition for an extension to continue school improvement efforts for up to two years.

An extension may be granted if the Springboard school:

- Reduces the gap in performance by one-fourth between the school's baseline performance from the year they were identified; and
  - a. 55% of all points possible if a school is an elementary, middle, or junior high school; or
  - b. 57% of all points possible if the school is a high school; and
- The school's performance must exceed the cut score for the lowest 3% of all schools in the ranking of schools from the year the school was scheduled to

exit; or

- Has met only one of the exit criteria and electronically files an extension request that provides a rationale justifying an extension.

### **What are the implications for a District Springboard school that fails to improve?**

Per [Utah Code 53E-5-306\(4\)\(a\)](#) if a District Springboard school does not meet the exit criteria after the school's final remedial year or the last school year of the extension period, the USBE may intervene by restructuring a district school which may include contract management, conversion to a charter school, or other appropriate actions as determined by the USBE [Utah Code 53E-5-306\(4\)\(c\)](#).

### **What are the implications for a Charter school that fails to improve?**

Per [Utah Coded 53E-5-306\(4\)\(b\)](#) if a Charter Springboard school does not meet exit criteria after the school's final remedial year or the last school year of the extension period, the state board may intervene by restructuring a charter school by: terminating a school's charter agreement; closing a charter school; or transferring operation and control of the charter school to: a high performing charter school; or the school district in which the charter school is located; or other appropriate action as determined by the USBE [Utah Code 53E-5-306\(4\)\(c\)](#).

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