

**UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RESOLUTION NO. 2022-02  
Adopted June 2, 2022**

**A Resolution Establishing the Official Position of  
the Utah State Board of Education Regarding  
Utah's Portrait of a Graduate**

“What are the hopes, aspirations, and dreams that our community has for young people?”

“What skills and mindsets do young people need to ensure opportunities for their future?”

These questions were the driving force behind the creation of Utah's Portrait of a Graduate. The process began with the assembly of a task force including Utah Board of Education (“USBE”) members and USBE staff. The group collected input from a wide array of stakeholders, including recent graduates, educators, business leaders, community members, students, and parents, and over the course of nearly two years, distilled the information gathered into the Utah Talent MAP, commonly referred to as Utah's Portrait of a Graduate (“PoG”). The PoG is Utah's vision for Utah high school graduates. It was developed in Utah, by concerned Utahns, to benefit Utah's children.

Utah's PoG has gained national critical acclaim and has been widely accepted by Utah schools. It has served to focus the efforts of education stakeholders on helping graduates not only develop academically, but also learn life skills that will prepare them to “succeed and lead by having the knowledge and skills to learn, engage civically, and lead meaningful lives.”

Recent attacks on public education have extended to Utah's Portrait of a Graduate, claiming that it was somehow imposed on the USBE by outside groups as part of a Marxist ideology/Critical Race Theory agenda. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Utah State Board of Education cannot remain silent while conspiracy theorists public attack and undermine one of the keystones of our educational efforts to gain political advantage. Recognizing the great value of the work put into the collaborative development of Utah's PoG and the importance of continuing to use it as a foundation for future action, we state and resolve as follows:

WHEREAS Utah's youth will face a world that looks very different from their parents' world; to succeed, they will benefit from a roadmap that provides intentional learning opportunities for academic and behavioral achievements; and

WHEREAS the PoG encourages local school districts and schools to develop their own portraits of a graduate by involving local academic experts, parents, and community members to identify community values and priorities for students; and

WHEREAS many Utah school districts, schools, policymakers, and legislators rely on the PoG to focus budget priorities, teacher training, and curriculum decisions, both locally and statewide; and

WHEREAS the characteristics identified in the PoG provide a healthy balance of academic, personal, and interpersonal skills and immediate and aspirational goals to focus student learning; and

WHEREAS it is the stated objective of the POG to support parents' primary efforts to educate and develop their children's character in their homes by cultivating ideal characteristics through school and extracurricular activities and opportunities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Utah State Board of Education emphatically denies that the PoG is anything but what it claims to be, a vision for future generations of Utah graduates who will

successfully carry this great state to a future full of hope and opportunity; and reaffirms its enthusiastic support for the process by which the Utah PoG was developed, the value of the characteristics it identifies, and the work of the USBE and all Utah educators to continue to use the PoG as the foundation of our efforts to support parents in preparing our children to “succeed and lead by having the knowledge and skills to learn, engage civically, and lead meaningful lives.”

ADOPTED THIS 2<sup>nd</sup> DAY OF JUNE 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Huntsman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mark Huntsman  
USBE Board Chair