

USBE's Public Frequently Asked Questions:

I have a question about:

- [Academic performance of Utah public schools generally or a specific public school.](#)
- [Accreditation of a school.](#)
- [Board meetings.](#)
- [Board members.](#)
- [CACTUS, Comprehensive Administration of Credentials for Teachers in Utah Schools.](#)
- [Calendars.](#)
- [Complaints.](#)
- [Diplomas.](#)
- [Enrolling a child in a school or in kindergarten.](#)
- [Finances of public schools.](#)
- [J1 visas for teaching in Utah.](#)
- [Kindergarten enrollment.](#)
- [Licensing.](#)
- [MIDAS courses or log-in.](#)
- [Professional development.](#)
- [School start dates, holidays, end dates, etc.](#)
- [Statistics \(class size, demographics, enrollment, etc.\).](#)
- [Student records.](#)
- [Therapeutic boarding schools in Utah.](#)
- [Transcripts.](#)
- [Use of materials found on USBE website.](#)

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE:

Where can I get information on the academic performance of a particular public school?

The Utah State Board of Education has the following resources:

- [Utah school report cards.](#)
- [Student proficiency in core academic subjects.](#)
- [Utah Aspire Plus results](#) (grades 9 and 10)
- [ACT college entrance exams](#) (high school juniors).
- [High school graduation rates.](#)

How well are Utah students performing academically compared to other states?

Comparative data can be found at the [National Assessment of Educational Progress.](#)

ACCREDITATION:

Is a particular school accredited?

[Utah law](#) requires public schools to be accredited by a regional accrediting body. [Cognia](#) is the primary accreditor of public schools as well as some private schools. There are many other [accrediting agencies for private elementary and secondary schools](#). Utah law does not require private schools to be accredited.

BOARD MEETINGS:

When are board meetings held?

Utah State Board of Education meetings are generally held on the first Thursday of the month. Board committee meetings are generally held on the first Friday of the month. Additional meetings are generally scheduled during the legislative session. The board annually posts a [schedule of its meetings](#). Agendas are [posted online](#) and are available at the [Utah Public Meeting Notice website](#) where anyone can subscribe to board meetings and receive notification as they are posted.

May I speak at a board meeting?

Yes. Public comment is welcome at meetings. Those who wish to speak at either a board meeting or committee meeting are asked to [request time on the agenda](#).

BOARD MEMBERS:

Who is my representative on the Utah State Board of Education?

Enter your address at the [vote.utah.gov website](http://vote.utah.gov) and click the "Contact my elected officials" link.

How do I contact my Utah State Board of Education representative?

[Utah State Board of Education member contacts](#).

CALENDARS:

Where can I find information about school start dates, fall, Christmas, or spring break, etc.?

[Calendars for both district and charter schools](#).

COMPLAINTS:

I wish to file a complaint against a public school.

The quickest way to resolve a problem is at the school. If the problem cannot be resolved with a teacher or the principal, the next quickest way to solve it would be with the district office, or if it is a charter school, with the [State Charter School Board](#). It is possible there is a [department within the Utah State Board of Education](#) that can assist or you may wish to file a complaint through the [Public Education Hotline](#).

I wish to file a complaint against a licensed educator.

Depending upon the severity of the complaint, you may wish to address the issue to the school principal or to the [district office](#) or [State Charter School Board](#). If you believe the educator to have committed misconduct, you are encouraged to report that to the [Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission \(UPPAC\)](#).

I wish to file a complaint or wish to know if any complaints have been filed against a therapeutic boarding school.

The Utah State Board of Education does not govern private therapeutic boarding schools. You will need to contact the Utah Department of Human Services [Office of Licensing](#). 801-538-4242 or dhsinfo@utah.gov.

How can I file a civil rights complaint against a school?

A [civil rights complaint](#) is filed through the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights. The complaint can be filed through offices in [Washington or in Denver](#).

ENROLLMENT:

What are my public school enrollment options?

Utah has a statewide [open enrollment law](#). This means parents/guardians can choose a school other than their assigned district school for enrollment providing the chosen school is operating below the open school threshold population and that the parent/guardian will provide transportation. Contact your school of choice to see if it is available for open enrollment. Utah also has many [public charter schools](#) that do not charge tuition.

What school would my child attend if I buy a home at a particular address?

If a parent or guardian does not intend to take advantage of open enrollment, individual school boundaries are set by school districts, and you would need to [contact the district](#). If you do not know the name of the district, you can enter an address in the search function at [Utah School District Boundaries](#) to get the name.

Can my academically advanced child enroll early in kindergarten?

[Utah law](#) only allows public schools to enroll children who are at least five years old before September 2 of the year in which admission is sought. The [only exception](#) to this for children of military families who transfer into Utah during the school year who have a child or children who were enrolled in kindergarten in the state from which they are transferring.

Do I have to enroll my child in kindergarten?

No. Kindergarten is optional in Utah. The [state's compulsory education law](#) applies to children between the ages of 6 and 18. Kindergarten is generally for 5-year-olds.

Where can I enroll my child in a full-day kindergarten program?

Full-day kindergarten is not mandated by the state. You will need to contact your [school district](#) or [charter school](#) to see if it is offered.

FINANCE:

Where can I find information about school finances?

Financial reports can be found in the Finance section of the [Superintendent's Annual Report](#) and in [Financial Operations](#).

Nationally comparative data can be found in the [Digest of Education Statistics](#) and the [Annual Survey of School System Finances](#).

LICENSING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

How do I obtain a Utah teaching license?

[Information on obtaining all types of educator licenses](#).

How do I renew my Utah educator license?

[Information on educator license renewal](#).

How can I correct information in my Comprehensive Administration of Credentials for Teachers in Utah Schools (CACTUS) file?

Contact your district or charter human resource office. If you are not currently employed, contact licensing@schools.utah.gov.

Where can I get help with my MIDAS log-in credentials?

MIDAS@schools.utah.gov or 801-538-7807.

Can the Utah State Board of Education help me obtain a J1 visa to teach in the United States?

Our J1 visa program is very limited, and pertains only to those teachers who have been selected based on their home nation's participation in a recruitment and vetting process as part of an existing agreement, and who are bringing with them the language skills necessary for our dual language immersion programs.

STATISTICS:

Where can I find information about class sizes, enrollment, demographics, etc.?

[Data and Statistics reports](#).

For information about nationally comparative data, please consult the [Digest of Education Statistics](#).

STUDENT RECORDS:

Where can I get a copy of my transcripts?

Open public or private school: You will need to contact the school from which you graduated. Some schools hold records in the counseling office, some have dedicated registrars who handle such requests. School contact information:

<https://schools.utah.gov/schoolsdirectory>.

Closed district school: You will need to contact the school district office:

<https://schools.utah.gov/schooldistricts>.

Closed charter school: Contact:

Jenna Magnetti

Research Consultant

Jenna.Magnetti@Schools.Utah.Gov

801-538-7732

Closed private school: Unless the school made provisions to have transcripts distributed following their closure, it is unlikely you will be able to obtain them. The biggest distributor of educational credentials, such as transcripts, is Parchment,

<https://www.parchment.com/>.

Closed private college or other private postsecondary school: [Utah Postsecondary Proprietary School Act](#) requires private postsecondary schools that have closed to

provide transcripts to the [Utah Division of Consumer Protection](#), (801) 530-6601 or (800) 721-7233 or consumerprotection@utah.gov. Web resource:

<https://dcp.utah.gov/transcripts.html>.

Where can I get a copy of my diploma?

Utah law does not require district or charter schools to retain copies of diplomas.

USE OF MATERIALS FOUND ON USBE WEBSITE:

I would like to use a resource I found on the Utah State Board of Education website. May I?

[Board rule](#) states that public education materials developed with Utah State Board of Education funds are to be held under a Creative Commons BY license (CC BY). Here is the full legal background on CC

BY: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/legalcode>. Here is the easy-to-read version: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.