



September 5, 2017

From: Jessica Harvey Fiveash

Chair, Utah State Democratic Party Education Caucus

To: Angie Stallings

Deputy Superintendent, Utah State Board of Education

Dear Deputy Superintendent Stallings and Members of the Utah State Board of Education:

I am writing to request a public hearing, *after school hours* to accommodate the educator members of our caucus, on R277-700: The Elementary and Secondary School General Core. The Utah State Democratic Education Caucus firmly believes that our public education system must educate the whole child. This means offering courses in addition to the general academic curriculum of English, Math, and Science. We believe that the changes in this rule puts this in danger.

Many students look forward to courses such as art and music to explore their creativity which, in turn, expands their minds and enhances critical thinking. The physical activity of P.E. aids student learning in all areas of school and teaches sportsmanship and win-win attitudes. Health classes guide middle schoolers through those difficult changes faced at that age. Foreign languages prepare students for the global climate of today.

This is just a brief look at how important it is for students to get a broad education here in Utah. As educators and parents looking out for our students, we implore you to reconsider this rule.

Sincerely,

Jessica Harvey Fiveash

Chair, Utah State Democratic Party Education Caucus