

Educator Licensing Newsletter

Podcast Version

You can now LISTEN to the newsletter instead of reading it! [Click here to listen to the 2/17/2026 Educator Licensing Newsletter Podcast](#) (created by [NotebookLM](#)).

Sign up for Newsletter Listserv

If you would like to receive future Licensing Newsletters, please subscribe to the [Licensing News Listserv](#) through UEN.

USIMS: LEA First Look Training

Have you missed our USIMS webinar on November 12, 2025? You may review the video (bit.ly/1stUSIMSvideo) or slides (bit.ly/1stUSIMS). For more questions about the USIMS webinar, please contact Malia Hite.

USIMS Errors & Workarounds

Any individual who encounters any error or issue with USIMS should contact USIMShelp@schools.utah.gov

Licensing Coaching

Book a licensing coaching session: [Book time with Malia Hite](#)

If you have any specific feedback for the Educator Licensing team to consider, please contact [Malia Hite](#).

(801) 538-7740

[Educator Licensing Website](#)



CACTUS/USIMS Transition Timeline

- Soft release of USIMS was deployed in January. We are still working to correct bugs to ensure it works properly. The Statewide Release and CACTUS RDS sunset will not occur until the end of February at the earliest.
- All LEAs may continue using CACTUS. We will *notify you prior* to the CACTUS RDS sunset.
- Anyone needing reports from CACTUS after the RDS sunset, should email the request to licensing@schools.utah.gov
- **USBE will have access to CACTUS after the RDS is turned off.**

Feedback on Possible Licensing Policy Changes

We are seeking feedback on [possible licensing policy changes](#). Please use the [Licensing Policies Feedback Form](#) to provide feedback regarding educator licensing policies, including the Licensing Applauds Guidance Group (LAGG) recommendations regarding educator licensing Board rules. The Educator Licensing team at USBE appreciates both positive and critical feedback. The LAGG will review all feedback.

Legislative Session Bills

There are just three short weeks left in the [Utah Legislative Session](#). You may review the [2026 USBE Education Bill Tracker](#) to see bills that are related to public education. The following bills are related to licensing: [SB 52](#), [SB 75](#), [SB 77](#), [HB 163](#), and [HB 268](#).

SY 2026 Core Code Changes

[SY 2026 Core Code Changes](#) - These changes will take effect for the 2026-2027 school year. All Core Codes are posted on the [CACTUS webpage](#).

U-RAPT News! *An important update regarding the U-RAPT program.*

Due to budget constraints, we are unable to hire someone to take Christina Guevara's place. However, we have developed a new support structure to ensure the program continues to thrive. Our dedicated *Educator Preparation Team*, consisting of *Dr. Lisa McLachlan*, *Jennifer Prince*, and *Camilla Reinhard*, will be stepping in to support the program moving forward. Additionally, *Mirella Garcia* will continue to provide her valuable support for U-RAPT. We understand that this transition may raise some questions or concerns. If you have any, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at urapt@schools.utah.gov.

Thank you for your patience over the last several weeks as we determined the best course of action to support the program. Your cooperation and understanding are greatly appreciated.

Licensing Annual Reports

During the February Law & Licensing Committee ([see video of discussion](#)), we shared the [2025 Educator Licensing Annual Report](#) which included an overview of the [2025 Educator Preparation Annual Report](#). Please contact [Malia Hite](#) or [Lisa McLachlan](#) with any questions or comments.

Office Hours with Licensing

The licensing team is offering "Office hours" on Friday's from 12pm-2pm. As a reminder, this is not a meeting with the licensing team. You can just hop into the meeting with your questions at any time between 12pm-2pm on Friday. For more questions, please contact [Jane Conway](#).

Board's Strategic Plan, established November 2025

The Board established their [strategic plan](#) and one of the goals is directly tied to educator licensing: *Goal Two: Promote Educator Quality & Effectiveness*

- Streamline licensing pathways to attract and retain highly qualified professionals to public education.