

School LAND Trust Compliance Newsletter

-January, February, March 2024-

Message from the Compliance Specialist

Greetings School Administrators!

As your councils are gearing up to determine how to implement the School LAND Trust (SLT) program in 2024-2025, please make sure you have the following tools available to them:

- A summary of the LEA's academic priorities for the upcoming school year
- A copy of the school's Teacher and Student Success Plan ([TSSP](#)). *Remember, TSSP and SLT are different programs and plans, but SLT is intended to be a puzzle piece in the big picture of TSSP.*
- School-specific student academic data. *Don't include any student personal or identifying information!*

Sharing these items allows councils to deliberate and collaborate on how to best use SLT funds to support students' academic achievement in the next year in an aligned partnership with the LEA.

Greetings LEA Reviewers!

Reviewing for a Final Report and reviewing for an Upcoming Plan requires a different review lens and assurances. As a refresher (or introduction to our new reviewers), please use this [quick guide for reviews](#). Even if you are a seasoned reviewer, I encourage you to use the document to identify any changes that have occurred recently in the review process so you aren't caught off guard in a compliance review.

As always, please reach out to the SCT team with any questions you have or support you need. Happy planning & reviewing!

SLT-Related Code or Rule Changes

Changes are summarized below. Please refer to the [published Utah Code](#) or [published Administrative Rule](#) prior to implementation. A list of and links to applicable program law can be found on the [School LAND Trust pages](#).

Council Signature Form

Friendly reminder that there was a Rule [change in FY23 to the Council Signature Form](#) process*. The Council Signature Form's purpose is to allow council members to indicate that they were fully involved in creating the school's School LAND Trust plan, as is required by law. Important things to know:

- The form may be created by the LEA, or a [template](#) is available.
- The form should be presented to the council members at the meeting when the Upcoming Plan is approved by the council (or a time close to the meeting, if necessary).
- The form must be presented to the local/governing Board at the time the Board reviews the Upcoming Plan.
- The form may be attached to the Upcoming School Plan in the Attachments section on the SLT reporting website, but a copy of the original must be retained for 3 years at the LEA or school office

**Charter Governing Boards who serve as the Charter Trust Land Council are exempt from a Council Signature Form. Elected charter councils must complete the Council Signature Form.*

NEW to the Websites

Changes to the School LAND Trust reporting website that are upcoming or have been released. Thank you for the feedback that promotes continual website improvement.

Informational Website (www.schools.utah.gov)

The Utah State Board of Education has released a new and improved website. Check out our new [informational program pages](#), which have received a beautiful upgrade from our training specialist, Holly.

Reporting Website (<https://schoollandtrust.schools.utah.gov/>)

The Upcoming Plan will look different to principals this year:

- Text changes to more clearly explain the plan sections will be released in mid-February.
- There are no longer questions asking about digital citizenship/safety principles within goals due to the \$7,000 cap on these types of goal components being removed.
- The Funding Changes section is gone. If changes need to be made to a plan, please go through the Amendment process.

Board Approval Date

- Prior to being able to complete the review process, an LEA reviewer must know the date of the Board's approval of Upcoming Plans and enter it as part of the review. Please do **not** approve a plan in the School LAND Trust reporting website until it is Board approved.

Compliance Monitoring

Information to help your LEA & schools remain compliant with program laws based on recent compliance findings. Please take this opportunity to correct issues prior to a review.

Decision-making for SLT is for 1 year

Councils can **not** make decisions for SLT funds that would force a future council to use funds in the same way in another school year. *Example: When using SLT funding for paying for people - it is only for one year. The subsequent year's council does **not** have to approve the same use of funds and the people being hired must know that the contract is for only 1 year, especially if SLT is the only source of funding for them.*

Upcoming Plan: Academic Priority section

In the Academic Priority section of a goal, select **only** priorities that have a measurement associated with them.

- *Example: If your goal is to increase math proficiency, and you intend to purchase art supplies to support math learning through geometric design, the only academic priority you would select is "Mathematics" as that is what is being measured to indicate the goal's success. If you're not measuring student's achievement in art, do not select "Fine Arts" in addition to "Mathematics". Instead, describe the connection between purchasing art supplies for a goal in math achievement in the plan's action steps section.*

Mini-Grants

Mini-grants (teacher grants) are only allowable if a process is established to submit an Amendment prior to SLT funds being used. *This could look like a grant submission process for teachers at the beginning of the school year so the SCC, Board, and LEA may review the requested purchases in relation to existing goals, and an Amendment can be submitted and approved prior to the purchases being made using SLT dollars. The purchase date of items in relation to the approval date of an Amendment is considered in a compliance review.*

Budget Review & Amendments

Now is the time to look at your school's FY24 budgets for SLT. If a school will have greater than 10% carryover of the FY24 distribution, work with the school and the council to submit an Amendment to spend the funds this year.

Contact the SCT

The SCT section at the Utah State Board of Education provides administration, training, and compliance for the SLT program.

For the quickest possible response, please use or CC our team group email: schoollandtrust@schools.utah.gov

Paula Plant

Director

801-538-7555

paula.plant@schools.utah.gov

Kira Bennett

Compliance Specialist

801-538-7533

kira.bennett@schools.utah.gov

Holly Korous

Training Specialist

801-538-7764

holly.korous@schools.utah.gov