

Board Summary

August 7, 2025 Board Meeting

The Utah State Board of Education:

- Approved child sex abuse and human trafficking [prevention instructional materials](#),
- Presented the oath of office for new District 7 board member, Erin Longacre, and
- Updated the [school construction resource manual](#) and [related rule](#).
- [Full agenda](#).

Board Welcomes District 7 Member Longacre

The Utah State Board of Education welcomed Erin Longacre as its [newest board member](#). Member Longacre replaces Dr. Molly Hart, who was selected as the new State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Longacre's six years as a substitute teacher and her involvement with her children's school district's Parent-Teacher Association inspired her decision to run for the state school board.

For additional information, please contact:

Kelsey James

Board Communications Coordinator

Phone: (801) 538-7516 | [E-mail](#)

Board Approves Waiver Regarding Health Standards and Amends Policy

The Utah State Board of Education discussed and approved the need for a [waiver](#) on the review of Health Standards. Secondly, they amended [Board Policy 3002: Core Standards Revision Process](#) to include a targeted standards review process. [H.B. 281, Health Curriculum and Procedures Amendments](#), requires revisions to health standards by July 1, 2026. These revisions emphasize abstinence, incorporate the "success sequence," and prohibit instruction on certain sensitive topics. To meet this deadline, a targeted review process is proposed, as the standard review process would be too lengthy. Additionally, further public comment is deemed unnecessary because the curriculum in H.B. 281 has already undergone a public input process, and additional public comment would not alter the legislative requirements.

For additional information, please contact:

Meghan Everette

Director of Teaching and Learning

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Board Approves Child Sexual Abuse and Human Trafficking Prevention Minimum Standards and Instructional Materials

The Utah State Board of Education approved updated [minimum standards](#) on child sex abuse and human trafficking prevention instructional materials. This update is due to the passage of [H.B. 40 School Safety Amendments](#), which established requirements for adding information regarding the risks of sharing intimate images or personal information through electronic means, definitions for sexual extortion, appropriate responses to incidents of sexual extortion, and resources for victims of sexual extortion. The Board also approved sets of [instructional materials](#), including materials specific for elementary students and additional materials for the training of adults, which include education staff and/or parents.

For additional information, please contact:

Tanya Albornoz

Coordinator for Prevention and Student Services

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Board Appoints Molly Hart as Interim Superintendent for the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind

The Utah State Board of Education appointed Dr. Molly Hart as the Interim Superintendent for the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (USDB). Dr. Hart will serve in this role effective immediately and up to the end of the 2025 calendar year. This appointment comes after 12 years of dedicated service from Joel Coleman as the USDB Superintendent.

For additional information, please contact:

Kelsey James

Board Communications Coordinator

Phone: (801) 538-7516 | [E-mail](#)

Board Reviews Federal Funding Grants

The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) was informed of the current status of federal funding grants for:

- Title I, Part C: Migrant Student Education
- Title II, Part A: Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants
- Title III, Part A: English Language Acquisition
- Title IV, Part A: Student Support and Academic Enrichment State Grants
- Title IV, Part B: 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program
- Adult Education and Family Literacy Act

USBE has received grant award notifications for certain title programs, totaling approximately \$29 million thus far. A second round of grant award notifications is possible at a later date.

For additional information, please contact:

Scott Jones

Deputy Superintendent of Operations

Phone: (801) 538-7615 | [E-mail](#)

Board Approved USDB Salary Supplement Policy, Contract Amendments

The Utah State Board of Education approved the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (USDB) [Salary Supplement for Highly Needed Educators policy](#) and amendments to the Wasatch Transportation contract. The Board also approved school calendars for Utah Schools for the Deaf and Utah Schools for the Blind campuses.

For additional information, please contact:

Michelle Tanner

Assistant Superintendent of the Deaf

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Susan Patton

Assistant Superintendent of the Blind

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Board Updates Bylaws, Article IX

The Utah State Board of Education approved changes to [Board Bylaws, Article IX](#). The Internal Audit Department reported to the Audit Committee that the Board's Bylaws, Article IX(1)(f), states that employees are supervised by the Superintendent, unless otherwise specified. This conflicts with the Utah Internal Audit Act ([63I-5](#)), which requires the internal audit function to be independent for the purpose of objective analysis. Therefore, the Internal Audit staff should not be supervised by the Superintendent. Currently, Internal Audit staff are supervised by the Chief Audit Executive, which aligns with Utah Code.

For additional information, please contact:

Debbie Davis

Chief Audit Executive

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Board Approves Weber School District Statewide Online Education Provider Application

The Utah State Board of Education approved Weber School District's 'Innovation Online 7-12' as a [statewide online education provider](#).

For additional information, please contact:

Tami Gear

Achievement Support Services Director

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Board to Explore ASPIRE Student Information System Planning

The Utah State Board of Education directed staff to report [ASPIRE's integration costs](#) with Utah Schools Information Management System (USIMS) to the 508 Advisory Council. This was to help develop recommendations for the state legislature on how to use some of the \$10 million in one-time funds for LEA SIS upgrades.

For additional information, please contact:

Scott Jones

Deputy Superintendent of Operations

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Board Prepares Funding Request Related to Master Pilot Program

The Utah State Board of Education directed staff to prepare a [funding request](#) for the continuation of the Master Pilot Program to continue at its present levels following the passage of recent legislation.

For additional information, please contact:

Scott Jones

Deputy Superintendent of Operations

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Board Approves Promissory Note for American Principles Academy

The Utah State Board of Education (USB E) granted American Principles Academy/Cedar Charter Holders DBA APA-Cedar the ability to transfer their [charter](#)

[agreement](#) to Utah Charter Academies/American Preparatory Academy as of July 1, 2025. APA-Cedar has an existing Charter School Revolving Loan. The existing promissory note with USBE does not have a transfer provision, but staff has recommended this action.

For additional information, please contact:

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School Finance Director

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Board Accepts Memos as Recommended by USEAP

The Utah State Board of Education accepted a memo titled “[Parent Empowerment](#)” after USEAP studied the issue of empowering parents to support their students with disabilities this year. Additionally, the “[Disability Awareness Toolkit](#)” memo was also accepted following staff recommendation.

For additional information, please contact:

Dr. Leah Voorhies

Deputy Superintendent of Student Achievement

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Board To Prepare Legislative Funding Requests, Statutory Changes

The Utah State Board of Education has directed staff to prepare a list of potential [funding requests](#) to be reviewed at next month’s meeting. Staff has also been asked to look into the voted and board levy to propose potential changes to state code, which would lead to a more balanced tax policy.

For additional information, please contact:

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Deborah Jacobsen

Assistant Superintendent of Operations

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New Administrative Rules, Amendments, and Repeals

The Utah State Board of Education approved, amended, or repealed the following administrative rules:

- [R277-333, Registered Apprenticeship Program for Teachers](#). This rule is being amended to include requirements for pre-apprentices and to conform with updated Department of Labor requirements.
- [R277-613, LEA Policies and Training Regarding Bullying, Cyber-bullying, Hazing, Retaliation, and Abusive Conduct](#). This rule is being amended to include the new definitions related to student and staff bullying from [SB 223 Public Education Bullying Amendments](#).
- [R277-733, Adult Education Programs \(Incorporated Document\)](#). This rule is being updated after the Federal Register announced new approved assessments for adult education.
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- [R277-445, Classifying Small Schools as Necessarily Existent](#). This rule is being amended to reflect the changes to legislation, including standardizing the new formula and removing any restrictions on the NESS funding spending at the LEA level.

- [R277-471, School Construction Oversight, Inspections, Training and Reporting \(Incorporated Document\)](#). This rule is being amended to include requirements for AED and universal access key boxes as required by [HB 40](#).
- [R277-471, School Construction Oversight, Inspections, Training and Reporting](#). This rule is being amended to include requirements for AED and universal access key boxes as required by [HB 40](#).
- [R277-495, Electronic Devices in Public Schools](#). This rule is being amended to provide more clarity for students who receive technology items from a contracted Education Services Provider.
- [R277-705, Secondary School Completion and Diplomas](#). This rule is being amended to be in compliance with [HB 191](#).
- [R277-606, Dropout Prevention and Recovery Program](#). This rule is being amended to ensure the timeline for Dropout Prevention and Recovery Program reporting aligns with other similar reporting timelines and be in compliance with legislation.
- [R277-616, Education for Homeless and Emancipated Students](#). This rule is being continued upon its five-year review, and an oversight category is being added.
- [R277-623, School Climate Survey](#). This rule is being amended to reflect legislative changes as surveys are no longer required for all LEAs.
- [R277-921, Strengthening College and Career Readiness Program](#). This rule is being continued upon its five-year review, and an oversight category is being added.

Board Approves Consent Calendar

The Utah State Board of Education approved its consent calendar.

Meeting Highlights for Friday's Committee Meetings

The Utah State Board of Education [Finance, Law and Licensing, Standards and Assessments Committees](#) met on Friday, August 8. Any items approved in committee meetings will be heard by the full Board during its September meeting.

Law and Licensing Committee met in a hybrid format from 8:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Meeting highlights include:

- Preliminary approval of [R277-217, Educator Standards and LEA Reporting](#).
- Preliminary approval of [R277-301, Educator Licensing](#).

Finance Committee met in a hybrid format from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Meeting highlights include:

- Preliminary approval of [R277-125, Small School District Capital Projects](#).
- Preliminary approval of [R277-622, School-based Mental Health Qualifying Grant Program](#).

Standards and Assessment Committee met in a hybrid format from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Meeting highlights include:

- Preliminary approval of [R277-701, Early College Programs](#).
- Preliminary approval of [R277-324, Paraprofessional/Paraeducator Programs, Assignments, and Qualifications](#).