

Board Summary

February 5, 2026 Board Meeting

The Utah State Board of Education:

- Approved a resolution commemorating America's 250th birthday.
- Renewed a waiver for Daggett County School District authorizing a four-day school week.
- Supported several pieces of proposed legislation for the 2026 General Legislative Session.

Board Approves Resolution Commemorating America's 250th Birthday

The Utah State Board of Education approved a resolution recognizing the upcoming 250th anniversary of the nation's founding and reflecting on the principles that have shaped the United States. The resolution highlights foundational ideas expressed in the Declaration of Independence, including equality, natural rights, liberty, and self-governance. It acknowledges the historical influences that informed American law, public policy, and civic life. It also references moments throughout the nation's history in which individuals and institutions have looked to faith for guidance during periods of challenge and progress.

Board members noted that the resolution is intended to encourage reflection on the philosophical and historical roots of the country while recognizing the enduring responsibilities of citizenship. As the nation approaches its semiquincentennial, the Board emphasized the importance of understanding the ideas that have influenced America's development and continuing to prepare students for informed participation in a constitutional republic.

For additional information, please contact:

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Board Renews Daggett Four-Day School Week Waiver

The Utah State Board of Education approved Daggett School District's request for a waiver authorizing a four-day school week for Flaming Gorge Elementary School, Manila Elementary School, and Manila High School. The waiver will extend the four-day school week for these schools through June 30, 2030. Each of these schools is located in a rural, geographically remote area of Daggett County, where students and employees travel considerable distances for school, extracurricular activities, and personal obligations. The four-day school week allows for meaningful instructional time while also supporting student well-being, attendance, and community engagement. [Data collected over the past several years](#) demonstrate that student achievement and academic growth under this model have remained strong.

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Board Takes Position of Support on Several Proposed Education Bills

The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) took a position of support for several proposed pieces of education-related legislation, including: HB 64, Schools and Institutional Trust Lands Amendments; HB 75, American Indian and Alaska Native Education Amendments; HB 463, Special Education Funding Amendments; HB 144, 2nd Substitute, School Community Council Amendments; HB 146, Mentoring and Supporting Teacher Excellence and Refinement Program Amendments; SB 34, 2nd Substitute, Public Education Revisions; and HB 448, Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind Amendments.

Additionally, the Board voted to support the inclusion of USBE in HB 36, Gold Medal Schools Pilot Program, to oversee the federal rural health grant.

For additional information, please contact:

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Board Approves Education Research Priorities

The Utah State Board of Education voted to approve the submission of research questions for consideration to the Utah Data Research Center (URDC). The submission outlines the specific research priorities and data inquiries the Board seeks to address to inform state education policy.

The approved research questions are as follows:

1. Review the relationship between high school math and English courses and higher education courses.
 - What is the relationship between high school preparation and course success/failure rates in higher education?

- How do high school grades and courses influence students' preparedness and likelihood of succeeding in college-level courses?
 - What implications do these findings have for intervention strategies in higher education and in high school courses?
 - Look at the participation of colleges and universities' remedial mathematics classes in the last 30 years to analyze how they have changed.
2. Examine a cohort of students who participate in preschool initiatives, including online instruction and specialized intervention programs, to identify key factors that contribute to sustained academic success.
- To examine the long-term effects of participation in preschool initiatives and specialized intervention programs on academic achievement.
 - To identify key factors that influence sustained academic success from early childhood through intermediate grades.
 - To assess the relationship between early educational experiences, reading on grade level, and RISE test scores in the elementary grades.

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Board Releases CTE Audit Report and Prioritizes

Upcoming Audits

The Utah State Board of Education approved the public release of [25-02 CTE Audit Report](#) and directed staff to provide a copy to the Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee and the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst. In January 2026, the Internal Audit Department presented a draft of the CTE Audit report to the Audit

Committee. The audit considered laws, data, and other items related to Career and Technical Education. The report identified a variety of financial, compliance, and performance items. In accordance with [Board Policy 2006](#), Board leadership will assign the audit report to a standing committee for further consideration.

Additionally, the Board approved an audit of the Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission (UPPAC) and prioritized approved audits as follows:

- UPPAC
- Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Consultation (in-process)
- Board Advisory Groups (in-process)
- Data Analysis Consultation

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Board Updates Instructional Paraeducator Standards

The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) approved updates to the established Instructional Paraeducator Standards. The standards give guidance on supervision and training and provide competency requirements for Utah’s instructional paraeducators. During the revision of the USBE Paraeducator Manual — completed in 2023 — district and charter school representatives and community partners expressed concerns about outdated language in the standards. Concerns noted the need to expand the standards and related competencies, including the addition of special education-specific competencies.

The Board also voted to approve R277-324, Paraprofessional/Paraeducator Programs, Assignments, and Qualifications, Draft 2, to incorporate the newly updated standards.

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New Administrative Rules, Amendments, and Repeals

The Utah State Board of Education approved and/or amended the following administrative rules:

- [R277-700, The Elementary and Secondary School General Core](#). This rule is being amended to update requirements and timeline for the new civics course as required by [H.B. 381 Civics Education Amendments](#). These changes will allow districts and charter schools to begin offering the new course starting in the 2027-2028 school year.
- [R277-717, High School Course Grading Requirements](#). This rule is being amended to provide clarity on the language concerning grade replacement, particularly about whether students must repeat an entire course or may repeat only the term(s) in which a low grade was earned, and what qualifies as a “comparable course” to ensure consistent interpretation and implementation across districts and charter schools.
- [R277-479, Funding for Charter School Students with Disabilities on an IEP](#). This rule is being amended to address inflated SPED Add-On Weighted Pupil Unit funding levels for charter schools that have previously expanded.
- [R277-929, State Council on Military Children](#). This rule is being amended based on feedback from schools implementing the Purple Star Program. The amendment clarifies the rule requirements on training for Purple Star Schools to reflect that staff training should be conducted annually.

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's [Law and Licensing, Finance, and Standards and Assessment Committees](#) will meet on Friday, February 6. Any items approved in committee meetings will be heard by the full Board during its March meeting.

Law and Licensing will meet in a hybrid format from 9:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Meeting highlights include:

- Preliminary approval of amendments to [R277-322, Local Education Agency \(LEA\) Codes of Conduct](#).
- Preliminary continuation of [R277-750, Education Programs for Students with Disabilities](#).

Finance Committee will meet online from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Meeting highlights include:

- Preliminary approval of amendments to [R277-484, Data Standards](#).
- Preliminary approval of updates to the [LEA Annual Assurances Document](#).

Standards and Assessment will meet in a hybrid format from 10:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Meeting highlights include:

- Preliminary approval of changes to the [AI Framework](#).
- Preliminary recommendation for the development of [Supplemental Aquatics Standards](#).