

Board Summary

June 4, 2026 Board Meeting

The Utah State Board of Education:

- Approved \$120,000 in funding for all-abilities playground equipment to support accessibility for students with disabilities.
- Approved up to \$350,000 in contingency funds to support UPPAC investigations.
- Directed USBE staff to address a Career and Technical Education audit report by improving alignment with workforce needs.
- [Full agenda.](#)

Board Approves Use of Discretionary Funds for Playground Equipment

The Utah State Board of Education approved the use of \$120,000 for the development of playground equipment. The funding, allocated from Federal Mineral Lease (FML) funding, would support all-abilities playground equipment at Bluff Ridge Elementary to increase accessibility and promote inclusive play opportunities for students with disabilities.

For additional information, please contact:

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Deputy Superintendent

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Board Seeks Legislative Special Education Funding Formula Change

The Utah State Board of Education approved decisions related to special education funding formulas. The Board supported seeking a legislative change to create an additional special education funding formula providing 1.5 WPU per special education ADM for LEAs where more than 70 percent of students receive special education services. This staff recommendation is intended to address funding challenges for schools like Spectrum Academy, which serves a high percentage of students with disabilities.

For additional information, please contact:

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Spectrum Exec. Director of Finance

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Board Approves Up to \$350,000 in Contingency Funds for External UPPAC Investigators

The Utah State Board of Education approved the use of contingency funds to support investigations by the Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission (UPPAC). The Board authorized up to \$350,000 to retain external investigators for up to one year, or until the current case backlog is resolved, in response to staffing and capacity needs identified by UPPAC.

For additional information, please contact:

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UPPAC Director

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Board Suspends Property Tax Working Group

The Utah State Board of Education approved a motion to suspend the Property Tax Working Group. The working group had been directed to examine local levy policies, truth in taxation, and transparency, but had not yet been convened due to staff capacity constraints. Additionally, changes to statutory code during the 2026 legislative session addressed the initial concerns of the working group.

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Board Approves Waiver Requests for Iron and Tooele County School Districts

The Utah State Board of Education approved waiver requests for all schools within Iron County, and for Dugway K-12 School, Vernon Elementary, Ibapah Elementary, Anna Smith Elementary, and Wendover High School in the Tooele County School District. This allows flexibility for the 2027–2028 school year to implement a four-day instructional week.

For additional information, please contact:

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Board Approves Waiver Request for Canyons School District

The Utah State Board of Education approved a waiver request from R277-700-5 for Canyons School District to transition the Digital Literacy course from eighth grade to sixth grade. Canyons School District has identified that moving this instruction to the sixth-grade level – the entry point of secondary education – is critical for student

success. The waiver may be extended through the 2028-29 school year, depending upon legislative changes.

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Board Approves Waiver Request for City Academy

The Utah State Board of Education approved a waiver request from City Academy to delay the opening of its elementary school from Fall 2026 to Fall 2027. The request was made after no students were enrolled in the program as of February 18, 2026. The additional year will allow the school to strengthen planning efforts, secure high-quality staff, and finalize facility details to support a successful launch.

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Board Directs Staff to Address Career and Technical Education Audit Report

The Utah State Board of Education directed staff to address audit findings by reviewing relevant rules, coordinating with the Utah System of Higher Education, establishing a stakeholder workgroup, providing ongoing updates, and improving alignment with workforce needs and consistency across CTE programs. These steps will be taken following the audit's identification of financial, compliance, and performance issues.

For additional information, please contact:

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Deputy Audit Executive

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Board Approves Parental Exclusion From State Assessments Form

The Utah State Board of Education approved updates to the Parental Exclusion from State Assessments Form for the 2026–2027 school year. Updates include the removal of the Utah Aspire Plus assessments in response to S.B. 39 (2025), as part of its responsibility to maintain a statewide process for excusing students from eligible state assessments.

For additional information, please contact:

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Test Administration and Data Coordinator

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Board Accepts iSee Science Report and Evaluation

The Utah State Board of Education accepted the required four-year program report and evaluation in accordance with Board Rule R277-443-7, Distribution of Money to Science Outreach Organizations, which requires the Superintendent to report program outcomes and recommendations, and received an overview of the iSEE program's performance and evaluation results.

For additional information, please contact:

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STEM Integration and Support Coordinator

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Board Accepts Secondary School Counselor to Student Ratio Report

The Utah State Board of Education accepted the 2025–2026 Secondary Counselor-to-Student Ratio report in accordance with Board Rule R277-462-6, School Counselor-to-Student Ratio. The rule requires annual data collection and reporting on counselor staffing and student enrollment, including improvement plans for districts and charter schools not meeting the recommended 1:350 ratio. The report reflects statewide compliance, with participating schools achieving an average ratio of 1:287.85 based on October 1, 2025 data.

For additional information, please contact:

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Student Services Coordinator

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Board Approves Review of Social Studies Standards

The Utah State Board of Education approved a review of the social studies standards for grades K-6 and 7-12. This approval initiates a targeted review of elementary (K–6), and a full review of secondary (7–12) social studies standards in response to legislative requirements, including alignment with Board Policy 3002, to ensure updates meet statutory expectations and implementation timelines.

For additional information, please contact:

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Director of Teaching & Learning

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Board Approves Legislative Interim Committee Recommendations

The Utah State Board of Education approved recommendations for the legislative education interim committee to continue code sections 53E-2-304(6), 53E-3-503(6), and 53E-7-207(7), which are currently up for sunset.

For additional information, please contact:

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New Administrative Rules, Amendments, and Repeals

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

- [R277-477, Distribution of Funds from the Trust Distribution Account and Administration of the School LAND Trust Program](#) The Utah State Board of Education approved the continuation of this rule, which governs the distribution and oversight of School Land Trust funds. The rule was approaching its five-year review. Amendments were made to the allocation of funds in Section R277-477-6.
- [R277-726, Statewide Online Education Program](#) The Utah State Board of Education approved an amendment to this rule, which outlines requirements for online course access and participation for secondary students. The amendments to the rule revise definitions and eliminate duplicative language.

- [R277-625, Mental Health Screeners](#) The Utah State Board of Education approved the continuation of this rule, which addresses policies and procedures related to student mental health screening, and removed some language.
- [R277-916, College and Career Awareness](#) The Utah State Board of Education approved the repeal of this rule, which governs the College and Career Awareness program. This rule is no longer necessary, as many of the previous requirements were removed from statute after significant changes during this year's legislative session. All remaining requirements were moved to R277-916.
- [R277-911, Secondary Career and Technical Education](#) The Utah State Board of Education approved amendments to this rule, which governs secondary CTE programs and course standards. The amendments align the rule with the new statutory framework.
- [R277-407, School Fees](#) The Utah State Board of Education approved a continuation and amendment of this rule, which establishes guidelines for school fees and fee waivers.
- [R277-632, Funding for At-Risk Students and Students Learning English](#) The Utah State Board of Education amended this rule, which addresses the distribution of funds for at-risk and multilingual learners. The amendments update the rule to align with the revised emergency funding provisions for students learning English, which were enacted during the legislative session.
- [R277-634, Grants and Scholarships](#) The Utah State Board of Education approved this new rule, which establishes procedures for grants and scholarship programs.
- [R277-100, Definitions for Utah State Board of Education Rules](#) The Utah State Board of Education approved amendments to this rule, which provide updated definitions used across Board administrative rules. The amendments incorporate definitions enacted during the most recent legislative session.
- [R277-419, Pupil Accounting](#) The Utah State Board of Education approved the continuation of and amendments to this rule, which governs student attendance accounting and reporting.
- [R277-607, Absenteeism and Truancy Prevention](#) The Utah State Board of Education approved amendments to this rule, which address policies related to attendance and truancy prevention. The amendments update the rule to align with S.B. 58 and H.B. 502, by revising attendance-related definitions, expectations, and processes.
- [R277-484, Data Standards](#) The Utah State Board of Education approved amendments to this rule, which governs student data collection and reporting standards. The amendments update the rule to align with S.B. 58.
- [R277-605, Coaching Standards and Athletic](#) The Utah State Board of Education approved a continuation of this rule, which establishes requirements for coaching

and athletic training, and directed staff to bring a new rule to the committee in August to address background checks and student safety.

- [R277-317, Incentives for National Board Certification](#) The Utah State Board of Education approved the continuation of and amendments to this rule, which provides incentives for National Board Certification. The amendments were made as part of the rule's five-year review and include the addition of a sunset date due to the exhaustion of program funds and lack of new legislative appropriations.
- [R277-328, Equal Opportunity in Education](#) The Utah State Board of Education approved the continuation of and amendments to this rule, which establishes standards for equal opportunity in education and professional learning for educators.
- [R277-705, Secondary School Completion and Diplomas](#) The Utah State Board of Education approved amendments to this rule, which govern requirements for earning a high school diploma. The amendments align the rule with H.B. 502 (School Attendance Modifications) by establishing statewide test-out options for core courses, requiring LEAs to award credit for successful test-out completion, and updating grading and transcript provisions to reflect these changes.
- [R277-326, Early Literacy Coaches](#) The Utah State Board of Education approved amendments to this rule, which establishes requirements for early literacy coaches. The amendments align the rule with S.B. 241 (Early Literacy) by shifting responsibility for coaching to regional education service agencies and school districts, updating roles and definitions to reflect a locally administered model, and incorporating additional requirements related to science of reading instruction and future integration of social studies content.
- [R277-923, American Indian and Alaskan Native Education State Plan Pilot Programs](#) The Utah State Board of Education approved the continuation of and amendments to this rule, which governs American Indian and Alaska Native Education State Plan Pilot Programs. The amendments align the rule with H.B. 75 (American Indian and Alaska Native Education Amendments) by updating terminology, incorporating the statewide education plan, and aligning grant program administration with statutory requirements.
- [R277-917, Gold Medal Schools Pilot Program](#) The Utah State Board of Education approved the creation of this new rule, which establishes a pilot program recognizing high-performing schools.
- [R277-404, Requirements for Assessments of Student Achievement](#) The Utah State Board of Education approved a continuation of this rule, which governs statewide assessment requirements. The rule was also amended to align with H.B. 502 (School Attendance Modifications), which establishes statewide test-out options for core classes.

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 [Law and Licensing, Finance, and Standards and Assessments Committees](#) met on Friday, June 5. Any items approved in committee meetings will be heard by the full Board during its August meeting.

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

- Preliminary approval of [Alpine School District Waiver Request](#).
- Preliminary approval of amendment to [Board Policy 3006: USBE Data Governance Plan](#).

Finance Committee met in a hybrid format from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. Meeting highlights include:

- Preliminary approval of amendments to [R277-462, Comprehensive School Counseling Program](#).
- Preliminary approval of amendments to [R277-110, Educator Salary Adjustment](#).

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

- Preliminary approval of [Child Sexual Abuse and Human Trafficking Prevention Instructional Materials](#).
- Preliminary approval of [Sensitive Materials Model Policy update](#).