

Board Summary

March 12, 2026 Board Meeting

The Utah State Board of Education:

- Approved a new audit prioritization plan.
- Updated the AI in Education Framework.
- Approved the release of the draft American Constitutional Government and Citizenship Standards for a 30-day public review period.

Board Approves New Audit Prioritization Plan

The Utah State Board of Education updated its Internal Audit Plan, prioritizing three new risk-based audits following a recommendation from the Audit Committee. In alignment with Board Policy 2006, which requires formal approval for internal audits, the Board has added specialized reviews of Credit Recovery programs, USBE Conferences, Memberships, and Travel, and a Work Time and Leave Analysis to the schedule. These new items will follow current ongoing projects, including the Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission (UPPAC) and Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind (USDB) consultations, ensuring continued fiscal oversight and operational transparency.

Current Audit Priority – Project Status

1. UPPAC – In-Process
2. Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind – In-Process
3. Board Advisory Committees – In-Process
4. Data Analysis Consultation – Scheduled
5. Credit Recovery – Newly Added
6. USBE Conferences, Memberships, & Travel – Newly Added
7. USBE Work Time and Leave Analysis – Newly Added

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Board Approves Charter School Revolving Loans

The Utah State Board of Education approved Charter School Revolving Loans for two local education agencies, following a formal recommendation from the State Charter School Board (SCSB). Under the approved motion, Azure Fields will receive a loan in the amount of \$200,000, and Virtual Horizons will receive \$100,000. These revolving loans are designed to provide essential financial support to charter schools, assisting with startup costs or facilities expenses as they work to meet the needs of their student populations. The SCSB originally reviewed and recommended these loan applications during its January meeting before forwarding them to the USBE for final authorization and funding.

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Board Approves Updated Artificial Intelligence Framework

The Utah State Board of Education approved updated changes to the state's AI Framework. Recognizing that artificial intelligence is a rapidly evolving field within the educational landscape, the Standards and Assessment Committee has designated AI as a standing agenda item to be reviewed every other month for the foreseeable future. These recurring updates ensure that Utah's educational guidance remains current with emerging technologies. The Board approved an updated version of the framework that incorporates refined language and technical updates intended to support LEAs in the responsible implementation of AI tools.

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Board Directs Development of Supplemental Aquatics Standards

The Utah State Board of Education directed staff to begin the development of supplemental aquatics standards for K-12 education. Currently, [R277-700](#) mandates that the Board establish core standards for both required and elective courses. This

initiative aims to standardize the quality of aquatic instruction, focusing on student safety and physical competency within Utah's public education system.

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Director of Teaching and Learning

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Release of Draft American Constitutional Government and Citizenship Standards

The Utah State Board of Education approved the release of the draft American Constitutional Government and Citizenship Standards for a 30-day public comment period. This development follows a 2024 legislative amendment to [Utah Code 53E-4-205.2](#), which now requires high school students to complete 1.0 credit of instruction specifically focused on the American Constitution and the responsibilities of citizenship. The writing committee has revised the standards to incorporate specific Board feedback, providing a detailed justification document to explain their decisions. This public comment phase offers parents, educators, and community members the opportunity to evaluate the updated standards before they are finalized for statewide implementation.

For additional information, please contact:

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Director of Teaching and Learning

New Administrative Rules, Amendments, and Repeals

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

- [R277-484, Data Standards](#). The updated rule includes changes to the language regarding the 90-day parallel testing requirement for Student Information Systems from "shall" to "may." This shift allows for greater flexibility and staff discretion in overseeing data system transitions while maintaining the integrity of state-level reporting and funding accuracy.
- [R277-750, Education Programs for Students with Disabilities](#). The Utah State Board of Education approved continuation of R277-750 due to the five-year review period. This rule serves as the regulatory backbone for special education in Utah, incorporating federal IDEA requirements and the state's Special Education Rules manual by reference.
- [R277-604, Private School, Home School, Scholarship, and Bureau of Indian Education \(BIE\) Student Participation in Public School Achievement Tests](#). The Utah State Board of Education approved continuation of R277-604 due to the five-year review period. This rule ensures that Utah students not enrolled in traditional public schools, including those in private schools, home schools, the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), and those using state scholarships, have an orderly process to participate in statewide assessments.
- [R277-924, Partnerships for Student Success Program](#). The Utah State Board of Education approved continuation of R277-604 due to the five-year review period. This rule governs the Partnerships for Student Success Grant Program, which funds cross-sector collaborations between school districts, local businesses, and non-profits to improve educational outcomes for low-income students.

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, March 13. Any items approved in committee meetings will be heard by the full Board during its April meeting.

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

- Preliminary approval of the [draft Health Education Standards on "success sequence."](#)

Finance Committee will meet in a hybrid format from 9:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Meeting highlights include:

- Preliminary continuation of [R277-601, Standards for School Buses and Operations](#).
- Preliminary approval of the [LEA Annual Assurances document](#).

Law and Licensing Committee will meet in a hybrid format from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Meeting highlights include:

- Preliminary approval of [Cambridge Preparatory Academy's request for a waiver from R277-552 \(New\)](#).
- Preliminary approval of the [Lake Mountain School District's Authorizers Application \(New\)](#).
- Preliminary approval of [R277-309, Appropriate Licensing and Assignment of Teachers \(Amendment & Continuation\)](#).