

# May 7, 2026 Board Meeting Summary

The Utah State Board of Education:

- Adopted the State Fiscal Year 2027 Public Education Budget.
- Approved the Lincoln Academy Waiver Request.
- Approved the American Preparatory Academy-Eagle Mountain Satellite Waiver Request.
- Approved the FY2026 National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grant.

## Board Adopts State FY 2027 Public Education Budget

The Utah State Board of Education adopted the State Fiscal Year 2027 Public Education Budget in accordance with the Budgetary Procedures Act and the Money Management Act. The budget is a compilation of the appropriations from the Utah State Legislature and may include both supplemental and newly appropriated funds to the public education base budget. The Financial Operations section meets with section directors immediately following the legislative session to review appropriations and ensure a common understanding of the section budget (both new and ongoing balance). The budget is compiled and presented to the USBE Finance Committee for their review and recommendation to the USBE to adopt the next state fiscal year budget and/or supplemental funds to the current state fiscal year budget.

For additional information, please contact:

**Deborah Jacobson**

Assistant Superintendent of Operations

Phone: 801-538-7627 | [Email](#)

**Scott Jones**

Deputy Superintendent of Operations

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

## Board Approves Lincoln Academy Waiver Request

The Utah State Board of Education approved the Lincoln Academy's request for a waiver from R277-552-6(9). Lincoln Academy submitted a waiver recommendation request to the State Charter School Board on March 12, 2026. Lincoln Academy has a

satellite authorization that is set to expire in January of 2027. They are requesting a waiver recommendation from the SCSB to Board Rule 277-552 to allow seven additional months for them to open in August of 2027.

For additional information, please contact:

**Angela Doan**

Assistant Attorney General

Phone: 801-538-7885 | [Email](#)

## Board Approves the American Preparatory Academy - Eagle Mountain Satellite Waiver Request

The Utah State Board of Education approved the new waiver from R277-552-3(1), Charter School Timelines and Approval Process. Utah Charter Academies (UCA) was authorized by the State Charter School Board in February 2026 to open an Eagle Mountain satellite for the 2027-2028 school year. However, the Alpine School District's recent unanimous vote to close Cedar Valley Elementary in Cedar Fort has created an immediate emergency for approximately 130 local students and their families. This waiver is requested to accelerate our opening to Fall 2026. This timeline shift allows APA to lease and operate the vacant Cedar Valley facility, preventing student displacement, ensuring educational continuity, and eliminating the need for long-distance commutes to overcrowded district schools. Since the standard October 1st deadline for 2026 openings has passed, this waiver is essential to providing a collaborative, community-based solution for the Cedar Fort community.

For additional information, please contact:

**Angela Doan**

Assistant Attorney General

Phone: 801-538-7885 | [Email](#)

## Board Approves FY2026 National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grant Application

The Utah State Board of Education authorized the Child Nutrition Programs to submit a competitive grant application for the FY2026 National School Lunch Program

Equipment Assistance Grant, requesting up to \$150,375. If awarded, funds will be distributed to eligible School Food Authorities through a competitive subgrant process.

For additional information, please contact:

**Kimberly Loveland**

Director of Child Nutrition Programs

Phone: 801-538-7513 | [Email](#)

**Christopher Bruhn**

Contract / Grant Analyst

Phone: 801-538-7692 | [Email](#)

## New Administrative Rules, Amendments, and Repeals

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

- [R277-607, Absenteeism and Truancy Prevention](#) This rule is being reviewed prior to its five-year review. Action must be taken by the Committee to ensure USBE meets the upcoming Office of Administrative Rules filing deadline. This continuation does not include the policy changes from the 2026 legislative session.
- [R277-925. Effective Teachers in High Poverty Schools Incentive Program](#) While additional one-time funding was allocated during the 2026 Legislative session, no changes were made to the program. Staff are recommending continuation of the rule to ensure that the rule does not expire.
- [R277-727. School Meals Program](#) this rule is recommended for continuation to ensure that the rule does not expire on June 24, 2026.
- [R277-406. Early Learning Program and Assessments](#) Following the passage of [HB 312](#) and the subsequent repeal of early learning plans, staff recommends amending R277-406 to clarify the USBE's role in designating and funding statewide math assessments and to update the definition of "reading at grade level."
- [R277-488, Dual Language Immersion Program](#) This rule is being amended to reduce the number of endorsements as requested by the Board, eliminate the Dual Language Immersion Endorsement, and ensure the continuation of R277-488 ahead of its August 19, 2026, expiration date.
- [R277-320, Grow Your Own Teacher and School Counselor Pipeline Program](#) This rule is being amended to clarify that only apprentices qualify for

four semesters of FTE assistance and update mentor stipend language per [H.B. 163](#) and [S.B. 34](#), while also recommending the continuation of R277-320 prior to its July 20, 2026 expiration.

- [R277-731, Catalyst Center Grant Program Policy](#) This rule is being amended to rename the Catalyst Center Grant Program to "The Applied Educational Experience Grant Program," update eligibility and fund usage provisions, and align code references with the requirements of [SB 34](#).

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

**Finance Committee will meet virtually from 8:15 a.m. to 12 p.m. Meeting highlights include:**

- Preliminary adoption of [R277-477, Distribution of Funds from the Trust Distribution Account and Administration of the School LAND Trust Program](#).
- Preliminary approval of [R277-407, School Fees](#).

**Standards and Assessment Committee will meet in a hybrid format from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Meeting highlights include:**

- Preliminary approval of [R277-917, Gold Medal School Pilot Program](#).
- Preliminary approval of [R277-705, Secondary School Completion and Diplomas](#).

**Law and Licensing Committee will meet in a hybrid format from 8:45 a.m. to 12 p.m. Meeting highlights include:**

- Preliminary approval of the continuation of [R277-328, Equal Opportunity in Education](#).
- Preliminary approval of [R277-322 Local Education Agency \(LEA\) Codes of Conduct](#).