

Board Summary

September 4, 2025 Board Meeting

The Utah State Board of Education:

- Released an internal audit report on the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind
- Amended and approved a letter that will be sent to the U.S. Department of Education
- [Full agenda](#).

Board Releases Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Internal Audit Report

The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) approved the release of the [Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind internal audit report](#). Several concerns were highlighted, including inaccurate enrollment data. Auditors issued a list of recommendations that included working with USBE to create an effective financial strategy and ensure data record-keeping is accurate. There is also a strong emphasis on accountability.

For additional information, please contact:

Debbie Davis

Chief Audit Executive

Phone: (801) 538-7639 | [E-mail](#)

Board Revises Letter for United States Department of Education

The Utah State Board of Education approved [a letter](#) to the U.S. Department of Education that requests that Utah's congressional delegation work to fully repeal the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and support state autonomy. The Board also directed staff to identify appropriate waivers under ESSA and bring them back to the Board for potential action.

For additional information, please contact:

Kelsey James

Board Communications Coordinator

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

Board Approves Fee Schedule Addition

The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) approved the [fee schedule addition](#) for fiscal year 2027. USBE will be adding a \$20 microcredential review fee to the fee schedule. This change will allow USBE to collect the fee for each submission, ensuring that all reviewer costs are covered.

For additional information, please contact:

Meghan Everette

Director of Teaching and Learning

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Board Approves Plan to Address Funding Loss for Statewide Longitudinal Data System

The Utah State Board of Education approved a strategic approach to the predicted [\\$2.2M funding loss](#) for the Statewide Longitudinal Data System Four-Year Project. The Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) grant program has enabled states across

the nation to build integrated data systems that connect information across multiple agencies. The Board has directed staff to work with the Utah System of Higher Education to identify available funds from both agencies (e.g., carry-forward balances, Federal Mineral Lease funds, or other funds) to potentially continue and complete the SLDS project.

For additional information, please contact:

Aaron Brough

Director of Data and Statistics

Phone: (801) 538-7922 | [E-mail](#)

Board Awards Charter School Revolving Loan

The Utah State Board of Education approved a [Charter School Revolving Loan award](#) for Pinnacle Canyon Academy following legislative changes. This approval of a \$300,000 loan is subject to the following conditions:

- Immediate release of \$36,000 for architectural planning.
- Confirmation of secured funding for the remaining project costs prior to major disbursement.
- Consultation with a certified public accountant (CPA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to ensure compliance with applicable debt covenants.

For additional information, please contact:

Sam Urie

School Finance Director

Phone: (801) 538-7545 | [E-mail](#)

Board Establishes Data Systems and Reporting Advisory Committee

The Utah State Board of Education created a [Data Systems and Reporting Advisory Committee](#) following the passage of [HB 508](#). The committee compiled a report with recommendations to the Education Interim Committee. The Board received the report.

For additional information, please contact:

Katy Challis

Director of Privacy

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Board Recommends Sunset Two Education Interim Committee Items

The Utah State Board of Education voted to recommend that the Education Interim Committee [sunset](#) the Civics Education Pilot and the Ethnic Studies Commission. The Board also requested that the results of the evaluation of the Civics Education Pilot be shared with the Legislature.

For additional information, please contact:

Elisse Newey

Deputy Superintendent of Policy

Phone: (801) 538-7764 | [E-mail](#)

Board Approves Strategic Plan

The Utah State Board of Education discussed possible goals and priorities during a recent workshop. The Board voted to formalize the following three goals as part of its strategic plan.

1. Elevate student learning
2. Promote educator quality and effectiveness
3. Optimize oversight and accountability

For additional information, please contact:

Kelsey James

Board Communications Coordinator

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

New Administrative Rules, Amendments, and Repeals

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

- [R277-726, Statewide Online Education Program \(SOEP\)](#). This rule is being amended to reflect changes made in the legislative session, including HB246 and SB137.
- [R277-400, School Facility Emergency and Safety](#). This rule is being amended to be in alignment with legislation.
- [R277-125, Small School District Capital Projects](#). This rule is being amended to add a One Time Funding Appropriations for Small School Districts clause after the passage of [HB 462](#) created a new grant program for rural school athletic facilities.
- [R277-622, School-based Mental Health Qualifying Grant Program](#). This rule is being amended to remove an outdated funding match requirement.

- [R277-318, Teacher Salary Supplement Program \(TSSP\)](#). This rule is being repealed because Salary Supplement for Highly Needed Educators (SHINE) is now fully operational.
- [R277-301, Educator Licensing](#). This rule is being amended due to the passage of [HB 447 Statewide Catalyst Campus Model](#), which created licensing exceptions for industry professionals teaching in catalyst centers.

Board Approves Consent Calendar

The Utah State Board of Education approved its consent calendar, with the exception of one contract. The Board directed staff to update and reissue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for an Early Warning System program.

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, September 5. Any items approved in committee meetings will be heard by the full Board during its October 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 [R277-731, Catalyst Center Grant Program Policy](#).
- Preliminary approval of [R277-305, School Leadership License Areas of Concentration and Programs](#).

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

- Preliminary approval of [R277-407, School Fees](#).
- Preliminary approval of [R277-319, Special Educator Stipends](#).

Standards and Assessment Committee met in a hybrid format from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Meeting highlights include:

- Preliminary approval of [R277-469, Instructional Materials Operating Procedures](#).
- Preliminary approval of [R277-721, PRIME Pilot Program](#).