

Board Summary

September 3, 2026 Board Meeting

The Utah State Board of Education:

- Approved amendments to its data-sharing agreement with the Utah Education Policy Center.
- Approved a new assessment for paraprofessionals.
- Approved data elements for the school safety dashboard.
- [Full agenda](#)

Board Approves Amendment to Master Data Sharing Agreement with Utah Education Policy Center

The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) approved a one-year extension of its master data sharing agreement with the Utah Education Policy Center (UEPC). The agreement supports ongoing program evaluation and education research efforts and provides the data-sharing framework for several existing partnerships between USBE and UEPC. During the extension period, USBE staff will work with UEPC to develop a new, updated agreement.

For additional information, please contact:

Katy Challis

USBE Director of Privacy

Phone (801) 538-7894 | [E-mail](#)

Board Approves New ParaPathways Assessment for Paraprofessionals

The Utah State Board of Education approved the ParaPathways assessment from Educational Testing Service (ETS) as a qualifying assessment for paraprofessionals and adopted ETS's recommended passing scores for reading, writing, and mathematics. ParaPathways will replace the current ParaPro assessment, which is being updated by ETS at the end of September 2026. The new assessment separates content into reading and mathematics components and will continue to support qualification requirements for paraprofessionals in Utah schools.

For additional information, please contact:

Ben Rasmussen

Director of Law and Professional Practices

Phone: (801) 538-7835 | [E-mail](#)

Max Lang

Student Support Division ESEA Programs and Related State Initiatives Coordinator

Phone: (801) 538-7725 | [E-mail](#)

Board Approves Proposed School Safety Dashboard Data Elements

The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) approved the legally required data elements for Version 2 of the proposed School Safety Dashboard. The dashboard is being developed through a partnership between USBE and Safe Schools for Alex and is required to be publicly available by July 1, 2028. The approved data elements reflect recommendations from specialized workgroups and will help inform the development of the statewide dashboard, which is supported by \$3 million in combined funding approved by the Board and the School Security Task Force.

The Board also approved a motion to send the recommended elements from the specialized workgroups to the Administration and Transparency Task Force for review and discussion. The task force will send its recommendations to the Board.

For additional information, please contact:

Shauntelle Cota

School Safety and Student Services Director

Phone: (801) 538-7502 | [E-mail](#)

Rhett Larsen

School Safety Center Coordinator

Phone: (801) 538-7997 | [E-mail](#)

Board Approves Funding for Early Literacy Research Study

The Utah State Board of Education approved \$397,200 in Federal Mineral Lease discretionary funds to support an early literacy research study. The study will provide families with access to a literacy app that trains parents on the Science of Reading and offers activities to support kindergarten and first-grade students at home. Researchers will use student Acadience reading scores to evaluate the impact of parent-supported literacy instruction. The study is intended to provide evidence on effective early literacy practices and inform future policy and funding decisions.

For additional information, please contact:

Amanda Bollinger

USBE Board Member

Phone: (801) 463-7239 | [E-mail](#)

Jennie Earl

USBE Board Member

Phone: (801) 644-0622 | [E-mail](#)

Cindy Bishop Davis

USBE Board Member

Phone: (801) 319-4117 | [E-mail](#)

Board Reviews Appeal of LEA Sensitive Materials Decision

The Utah State Board of Education reviewed an appeal regarding a local education agency's (LEA) sensitive materials decision. Board members considered a motion to find that the LEA did not follow proper procedure and that the item be returned to the LEA to be placed on an upcoming agenda as its own item. That motion failed. The review was conducted under the appeal process established in Rule R277-123 and state law governing sensitive materials challenges.

For additional information, please contact:

Lora Cooper

Assistant Attorney General

Phone: (801) 538-7573 | [E-mail](#)

Davina Sauthoff

Library Media Specialist

Phone: (801) 538-7530 | [E-mail](#)

Board Releases Updated General Financial Literacy Standards for Public Comment

The Utah State Board of Education approved the release of Draft 1 of the revised General Financial Literacy standards for a 30-day public comment period. The proposed updates were developed by a writing committee convened as part of the Board's required review process and reflect changes in law, course content, stakeholder feedback, and recommendations from board members. Following the public comment period, staff and the writing committee will review feedback and prepare a final draft for Board consideration later this year.

For additional information, please contact:

Thalea Longhurst

Director Career & Technical Education

Phone: (801) 538-7889 | [E-mail](#)

April Painter

GFL Education Specialist

Phone: (801) 538-7750 | [E-mail](#)

Board Receives Data Retention Study Report

The Utah State Board of Education received the Data Retention Study report and approved forwarding it to the Utah Legislature. Required by [53E-3-526](#), the study examines data retention practices and compliance among local education agencies statewide. The report was informed by interviews with LEA staff and guidance from the

Data Systems and Reporting Advisory Committee and includes recommendations related to data retention practices. The report is due to the Education Interim Committee by September 15, 2026.

For additional information, please contact:

Trish Joshua

Senior Research Analyst

Phone: (801) 538-7817 | [E-mail](#)

Board Discusses Legislative Policy Requests for 2027 General Session

The Utah State Board of Education reviewed potential legislative policy requests in preparation for the 2027 General Session. The annual process allows the Board to identify and prioritize legislative initiatives, collaborate with lawmakers, and present approved proposals to the Education Interim Committee for review before the session begins. The Board directed staff to work with legislators in support of several policy requests, including:

- Removing the educator evaluation provisions from code,
- Considering giving legal and financial immunity for districts and charter schools for portions of the school fees code that conflict with the permanent injunction,
- Repealing Utah Code [53E-6-604\(6\)](#),
- Clarifying code sections around internal audit responsibilities and requirements for large districts, including [53G-7-401\(5\)](#) and [53G-7-402\(2\)\(3\)](#),
- Modifying sections of Utah Code that include parameters for sex offenders being on school property, and
- Amending Utah Code to include parameters for criminal trespass on school property.

For additional information, please contact:

Elisse Newey

Assistant Superintendent

Phone: (801)538-7550 | [E-mail](#)

Greg Connell

Policy Analyst

Phone: (801) 538-7957 | [E-mail](#)

Board Reviews Legislative Funding Requests for 2027 General Session

The Utah State Board of Education reviewed draft legislative funding requests for the 2027 General Session and provided feedback on proposed budget priorities. As part of the annual budget development process, staff presented funding proposals and supporting information for Board consideration. Board members will rank the proposals following the September meeting to finalize a prioritized list at the October board meeting for submission to the Governor's Office and the Utah State Legislature.

For additional information, please contact:

Scott Jones

Deputy Superintendent of Operations

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

Deborah Jacobsen

Assistant Superintendent of Operations

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

Greg Connell

Policy Analyst

Phone: (801) 538-7957 | [E-mail](#)

Board Approves Acceptance of School Safety Enhancement Grant Funds

The Utah State Board of Education approved accepting School Safety Enhancement Grant funds, if awarded. The federal grant program supports state efforts to strengthen school safety systems and physical security measures through evidence-based practices. Funding would support initiatives such as improving school entry and access controls, enhancing emergency response planning, strengthening coordination with emergency responders, and providing training and preparedness exercises for school personnel and School Resource Officers. The grant is intended to support statewide leadership and oversight of school safety efforts while helping local education agencies implement and sustain effective safety practices.

For additional information, please contact:

Rhett Larsen

School Safety Center Coordinator

Phone: (801) 538-7997 | [E-mail](#)

Sara Harward

Grants Compliance Officer

Phone: (801) 538-7881 | [E-mail](#)

New Administrative Rules, Amendments, and Repeals

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

- [R277-330, Utah Effective Educator Standards \(Amendment\)](#): The Utah State Board of Education approved amendments to R277-330, Utah Effective Educator Standards, to incorporate newly revised Educational Leadership Standards. The updated standards were developed through a comprehensive review process that included input from a stakeholder writing committee and public feedback and are intended to reflect current expectations for school leadership in Utah.
- [R277-305, School Leadership License Areas of Concentration and Programs \(Amendment\)](#): The Utah State Board of Education approved amendments to R277-305, School Leadership License Areas of Concentration and Programs, to remove the oversight category and update language related to administrator preparation program competencies. The amended rule aligns program competencies with the Educational Leadership Standards established in R277-330 and authorizes the Superintendent to develop competencies consistent with those standards.
- [R277-106, Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission Appointment \(Continuation\)](#): The Utah State Board of Education approved the continuation of R277-106, Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission Appointment, as part of the rule's required five-year review process. The Board continued the rule without changes and may revisit it following the completion of internal and Office of the Legislative Auditor General audits related to UPPAC.
- [R277-116, Audit Procedure \(Continuation\)](#): The Utah State Board of Education approved the continuation of R277-116, Audit Procedure, as part of the rule's required five-year review process. The Board continued the rule and approved a technical, non-substantive update to the rule language.
- [R277-323, Public Educator Evaluation \(Amendment\)](#): The Utah State Board of Education approved amendments to R277-323, Public Educator Evaluation, to align the rule with changes made by S.B. 241 during the 2026 legislative session.

The amendments update the educator evaluation rule to reflect current state requirements

- [R277-324, Paraprofessional/Paraeducator Programs, Assignments, and Qualifications \(Continuation\)](#): The Utah State Board of Education approved the continuation of R277-324, Paraprofessional/Paraeducator Programs, Assignments, and Qualifications, as part of the rule's required five-year review process. The Board continued the rule without changes.
- [R277-608, Emergency Safety Interventions and Prohibition of Corporal Punishment \(Amendment\)](#): The Utah State Board of Education approved amendments to R277-608, Emergency Safety Interventions and Prohibition of Corporal Punishment, to align the rule with legislative changes related to seclusion room requirements. The updates ensure compliance with current state law governing emergency safety interventions and student safety practices.
- [R277-113, Local Education Agency \(LEA\) Fiscal and Auditing Policies \(Continuation & Amendment\)](#): The Utah State Board of Education approved the continuation of R277-113, Local Education Agency (LEA) Fiscal and Auditing Policies, as part of the rule's required five-year review process. The Board also approved amendments to the rule to maintain current fiscal and auditing policy requirements for local education agencies.
- [R277-109, Legislative Reporting and Accountability \(Continuation\)](#): The Utah State Board of Education approved the continuation of R277-109, Legislative Reporting and Accountability, as part of the rule's required five-year review process. The Board continued the rule without changes to ensure ongoing requirements for legislative reporting and accountability remain in effect.
- [R277-712, Personalized, Competency-based Learning Grant Programs \(Continuation & Repeal\)](#): The Utah State Board of Education approved the continuation of R277-712, Personalized, Competency-based Learning Grant Programs, through the rule's September end date and approved its repeal thereafter. The action allows the rule to remain in effect until its scheduled conclusion while following administrative rulemaking procedures for repeal.
- [R277-720, Reimbursement Program for Early Graduation from Competency-Schools \(Continuation & Repeal\)](#): The Utah State Board of Education approved the continuation of R277-720, Reimbursement Program for Early Graduation from Competency-Schools, through the rule's September end date and approved its repeal thereafter. The action allows the rule to remain in effect until its scheduled conclusion while following administrative rulemaking procedures for repeal.
- [R277-117, Utah State Board of Education Ethics Amendments \(New\)](#): The Utah State Board of Education approved R277-117, Utah State Board of Education Ethics Amendments, to implement the ethics requirements established by H.B.

194 (2026). The new rule outlines procedures for administering ethics training, conflict of interest disclosures, and other Board responsibilities under the state's new ethics framework for board members. It also provides guidance regarding the role of the Independent Ethics Commission established in state law.

- [R277-631, Student Toilet Training Requirements \(Amendment\)](#): The Utah State Board of Education approved amendments to R277-631, Student Toilet Training Requirements, to align the rule with S.B. 58, Public School Attendance Amendments, passed during the 2026 legislative session. The updates revise the rule to reflect new statutory requirements related to personal care independence for student enrollment, update implementation timelines and statutory references, and make technical changes to ensure consistency with state law.
- [R277-633, Dyslexia Screener \(New\)](#): The Utah State Board of Education approved R277-633, Dyslexia Screener, to implement the Dyslexia Screening Pilot Program established by 2nd Substitute H.B. 393, Early Intervention for Dyslexia Amendments. The new rule outlines application procedures, screening and reporting requirements, criteria for approved dyslexia screening tools, and administrative requirements for participating local education agencies.
- [R277-914, Career and Technical Student Organizations \(Amendment & Continuation\)](#): The Utah State Board of Education approved the continuation of R277-914, Career and Technical Student Organizations, as part of the rule's required five-year review process. The Board also approved amendments to clarify definitions, improve organization and readability, update cross-references, and make technical revisions throughout the rule. The changes do not alter existing oversight, governance, or fiscal accountability requirements for Career and Technical Student Organizations.
- [R277-727, School Meal Programs \(Amendment\)](#): The Utah State Board of Education approved amendments to R277-727, School Meal Programs, to align the rule with H.B. 100 (2025), which established new requirements related to reduced-price meals and state reimbursement. The amendments clarify reimbursement procedures, meal debt communications, and local education agency responsibilities while reorganizing the rule to improve clarity and implementation.
- [R277-702, Procedures for the Utah High School Completion Diploma \(Amendment & Continuation\)](#): The Utah State Board of Education approved the continuation of R277-702, Procedures for the Utah High School Completion Diploma, as part of the rule's required five-year review process. The Board also approved amendments to remove the oversight category and clarify requirements related to high school equivalency testing for non-resident students and online testing options for Utah residents.

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 [Standards and Assessments, Law and Licensing, and Finance Committees](#) met on Friday, September 4. Any items approved in committee meetings will be heard by the full Board during its September meeting.

Standards and Assessment Committee met in a hybrid format from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Meeting highlights included:

- Preliminary approval of the Utah Instructional Technology and Artificial Intelligence Model Policy and Implementation Resource for use by LEAs in developing and implementing local policies required by state law and USBE rule.
- Preliminary approval of the creation of an Artificial Intelligence Student Task Force under the Student Advisory Committee consistent with Board Policies 5008 and 1004.

Law and Licensing Committee met in a hybrid format from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Meeting highlights included:

- Preliminary approval of Alcott Learning to be an approved Educator Preparation Program, and recommend approval by the Board.
- Preliminary approval of R277-212, UPPAC Hearing Procedures and Reports (Amendment).

Finance Committee met in a hybrid format from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Meeting highlights included:

- Preliminary approval of working with the Legislature to implement protocols around the education stabilization account to ensure it:
 - Must have a direct correlation to education funding
 - Only be appropriated to the USBE or public education line items
- Preliminary approval of R277-477, Distributions of Funds from the Trust Distribution Account and Administration of the School LAND Trust Program.