

# EDUCATIONAL



**THE UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
Report to the Education Interim  
Committee

## **School Turnaround Report**

November 2018

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# School Turnaround Report

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### STATUTORY REQUIREMENT

**U.C.A. Section 53E-5-310** requires the State Board of Education to submit an annual report to the Education Interim Committee on the provisions of School Turnaround and Leadership Development on or before November 30 of each year. This report has been submitted annually since 2015.

In the School Turnaround and Leadership Development program, the Utah State Board of Education (Board) annually identifies low-performing district and charter schools. To be designated as a turnaround school, the school needs to be in the bottom three percent for two consecutive years. In administering the School Turnaround and Leadership Development program, the Board selects turnaround providers through a request for proposal process. The school board or charter school authorizer of the low-performing school establishes a school turnaround committee which, in partnership with the school, selects one of the contracted independent school turnaround providers. Contracts with providers are for three years and the provider works with the committee to develop and implement a school turnaround plan.

Schools identified as Cohort 1 turnaround schools have completed the required three years of turnaround efforts. Nineteen of the twenty-six Cohort 1 turnaround schools successfully exited turnaround and three have qualified for an extension to continue school improvement efforts for up to two years. Three schools did not meet the exit criteria and one charter school has since closed. In the fall of 2017, five schools were identified as Cohort 2 school turnaround schools. Cohort 2 schools have completed comprehensive needs assessments and root cause analyses and are working with contracted turnaround expert providers to develop and implement school turnaround plans that address the school's root causes of low performance.

## BACKGROUND

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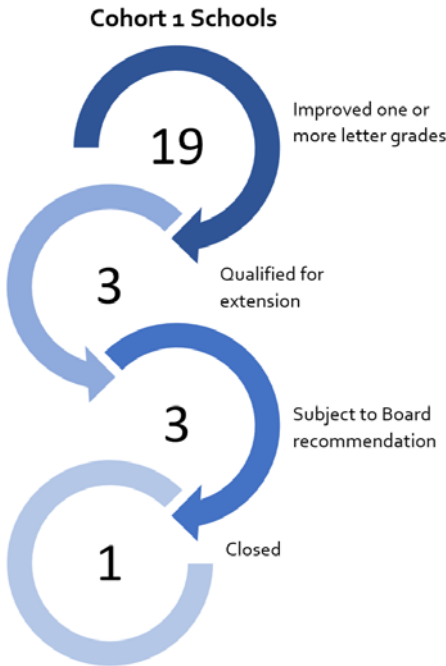
In the 2015 General Session, Senate Bill 235, Education Modifications, established the School Turnaround and Leadership Development Act (the Act). During the 2017 General Session, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 234, School Turnaround Amendments, which modified the School Turnaround and Leadership Development Act. Under the Act, the Board designates a school as a turnaround school if the school is in the bottom three percent of schools statewide for two consecutive years. The Act tasked the Board with conducting (or contracting out) a needs assessment analyzing the root causes of a school's low performance. The Act also requires schools that have been identified under School Turnaround to

make specific changes over a three-year period to improve student performance.

The first cohort of turnaround schools were designated in the fall of 2015 and have completed the three years of turnaround. The second cohort of turnaround schools, designated in the fall of 2017, have begun the improvement process.

## COHORT 1 TURNAROUND SCHOOLS

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In the fall of 2015, 26 schools were identified as turnaround schools and began the three-year turnaround process. Cohort 1 schools that conducted a needs assessment and root cause analysis; developed a school improvement plan based on the root causes of low performance; and implemented that plan with fidelity demonstrated enough progress in the state’s accountability system to exit School Turnaround or qualify for an extension for up to two years to continue school improvement efforts.

Using the state accountability system criteria that was in place for the 2014-15 school year, nineteen of the twenty-six schools successfully exited School Turnaround in the fall of 2018. Thirteen Cohort 1 schools improved at least one letter grade from school year 2014-15 to school year 2017-18. Five schools improved two letter grades and one middle school improved three letter grades from 2014-15 to school year 2017-18. Three schools demonstrated enough progress toward the exit criteria to qualify for an extension to continue school improvement efforts for up to two years. Three schools did not meet the exit criteria and will be subject to Board recommendation moving forward. One charter school has since closed (see the Appendix for additional detail).

## COHORT 2 TURNAROUND SCHOOLS

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In the fall of 2017, five schools were identified as Cohort 2 school turnaround schools. The Cohort 2 schools are Dixie Montessori Academy (charter), Guadalupe School (charter), JFK Junior High School (Granite), Paradigm High School (charter), and Utah Virtual Academy (charter). Cohort 2 schools have completed comprehensive needs assessments and root cause analyses and are working with contracted turnaround expert providers to develop and implement school turnaround plans that address the school’s root causes of low performance.

## CONCLUSION

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For Cohort 1 schools that did not meet exit criteria or qualify for an extension, the Board will determine next steps. Additionally, extension details for schools that qualified will be determined in the future as well.

For Cohort 2 schools, school turnaround plans have been reviewed by the School Turnaround Plan Review Team. The purpose of the review team is to review school turnaround plans and approve them, in whole or in part, dependent upon their alignment to the root causes of the school's low performance and to provide feedback and technical assistance to school teams regarding their plans. The recommendations for the turnaround plans will go before the Board at the December 2018 board meeting.

## APPENDIX

### Percentage Points Growth and School Grades – Cohort 1

Cohort 1 Turnaround Schools			
Elementary and Jr. High Schools			
District	School	% Growth Change	2015 grade - 2018 grade
Alpine	Cedar Valley Elementary School	12.3%	2015 – D, 2018 - C
Canyons	Midvale Elementary School	-6.3%	2015 - D, 2018 - F
Carbon	Mont Harmon Middle School	44.3%	2015 - D, 2018 - A
Charter	CS Lewis Academy	18.3%	2015 - D, 2018 - C
Charter	Dual Immersion Academy	12.5%	2015 - F, 2018 - D
Charter	Entheos Academy (Magna Campus)	.7%	2015 - D, 2018 - D
Charter	Mana Academy	25.8%	2015 - F, 2018 - C
Davis	Vae View Elementary	13.5%	2015 - D, 2018 - C
Granite	Granger Elementary	11.6%	2015 - F, 2018 - C
Granite	Lincoln Elementary	12.2%	2015 - D, 2018 - C
Granite	Oquirrh Hills Elementary	-6.3%	2015 - D, 2018 - F
Granite	Redwood Elementary	.2%	2015 -D, 2018- D <i>extension</i>
Granite	Roosevelt Elementary	3.2%	2015 - F, 2018 - D
Granite	South Kearns Elementary	15.3%	2015 - D, 2018 - C
Granite	Thomas Jefferson Jr. High	6.8%	2015 - D, 2018 - C
Granite	Thomas W. Bacchus Elementary	9%	2015 - D, 2018 - C
Granite	West Lake Jr. High	27%	2015 - D, 2018 - B
Granite	Woodrow Wilson Elementary	7.6%	2015 - F, 2018 - D
Kane	Big Water School	4.7%	2015 - F, 2018 - D
Ogden	Bonneville Elementary	22.2%	2015 - F, 2018 - C
San Juan	Bluff Elementary	8.3%	2015 - F, 2018 - D
San Juan	Tse’Bii’ Nidzsigai Elementary	11.7%	2015 - F, 2018 - D
High Schools			
Charter	Pioneer High School	Closed	2015 – F - <i>closed</i>
Charter	Utah Connections Academy	-1.1%	2015 - F, 2018 -F <i>extension</i>
San Juan	Monument Valley High	14.8%	2015 - F, 2018 - C
San Juan	Whitehorse High	4.8%	2015 - F, 2018 -F <i>extension</i>

Notes: Percentage increase in the percentage of points earned under the state’s accountability system from school year 2014-15 to school year 2017-18. Schools improving one or more letter grade are highlighted in orange.