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For Immediate Release

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Utah State Board of Education Names New Student Advisory Council Members

SALT LAKE CITY – The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) appointed nine new students to its 15-member Student Advisory Council (SAC) as voting members, in its meeting on November 4. The students will join the returning six members to advise the USBE on issues relevant to high school students throughout the state.

They were selected following an application period this fall. Appointed students attend both charter and traditional schools and represent diverse backgrounds. They report interest in issues including: mental health and bullying, access to personalized competency based learning, homelessness, issues perpetuated by the COVID-19 pandemic. credit recovery, college readiness, and school funding.

One student member from each of the 15 USBE voting districts serves on the SAC. The idea of creating a Student Advisory Council was initiated in 2018 by a student advocating for the involvement of student voices in statewide education policy decisions. The SAC has recommended changes to educational standards, later start times for high schoolers, increased mental health supports, greater and more equitable access to school counseling services, and more diverse perspectives in course content. The SAC’s advice has been sought by the Board as well as legislators and even First Lady Abby Cox. The SAC will meet every six months to discuss how decisions made at the state level affect students and offer recommendations on these decisions to the full Board. Membership is split between grades 11 and 12.

Newly Appointed SAC Members

State Board Voting District	Student Name	School
1	Carter Gale	InTech Collegiate Academy
3	Jessica Castaneda	Wendover High School
4	Emma Evans	Layton High School
6	Joey Coleman	Copper Hills High School

8	Alexis Thompson	Murray High School
9	Sophia Thompson	Lone Peak High School
10	Geonyoung Sarah Park	Summit Academy High School
11	Kathrynne Pullan	Riverton High School
15	Sojung Bok	DSU Success Academy

New USBE SAC Members 1

Returning SAC Members

State Board Voting District	Student Name	School
2	Jacob Peterson	Ogden High School
5	Sunny Price-Huish	Bountiful High School
7	Dhati Oommen	West High School
12	Kelsie Call	Karl G. Maeser Prep. Academy
13	Paige Ballard	Springville High School
14	Dallin Braun	Emery High School

Returning USBE SAC Members 1

<https://schools.utah.gov/file/dc71b620-8620-4057-9cd8-e275c58b09e4>