



# NEWS RELEASE

## Utah State Board of Education

250 EAST 500 SOUTH P.O. BOX 144200 SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84114-4200  
[www.schools.utah.gov](http://www.schools.utah.gov)

May 8, 2026

For Immediate Release

Contact: Ryan Bartlett, director of communications

605-201-7950 · [ryan.bartlett@schools.utah.gov](mailto:ryan.bartlett@schools.utah.gov)

### Utah State Board of Education Appoints Darin Nielsen as Superintendent of the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind

**SALT LAKE CITY** – Following a competitive search process, the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) is proud to announce the appointment of Mr. Darin Nielsen as Superintendent of the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (USDB).

Mr. Nielsen is a transformative leader who possesses the strategic depth and organizational expertise required to unify USDB's distinct programs and optimize educational outcomes for students statewide. His candidacy reflects a strong foundation in effective school leadership principles and a systems-level approach to strengthening USDB as a unified organization. His focus is on improving coordination across programs and ensuring consistent, high-quality educational services for all students served by USDB. This work is organized around the following strategic pillars:

- **Unified Strategic Governance:** Mr. Nielsen has developed a comprehensive roadmap to establish a singular vision, mission, and set of goals. This proactive approach aims to foster institutional cohesion and eliminate divisions that have historically hindered organizational progress.
- **Operational Transparency and Trust:** To dismantle internal silos and build community confidence, Mr. Nielsen proposes high-touch communication strategies, including "Rumor Buster" Q&A sessions and monthly joint director meetings designed to articulate the "why" behind executive decisions.

- **Exceptional Leadership Reputation:** Mr. Nielsen’s leadership is widely respected throughout Utah’s education community. Other candidates in this cycle acknowledged his outstanding qualifications, noting that his presence in the candidate pool was a benchmark for the caliber of leadership USDB requires.

“Darin Nielsen is a thoughtful and highly respected educational leader with a clear vision for the future of USDB,” said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Molly Hart. “He understands the importance of transparency, collaboration, and building trust across programs and communities. I am confident he will lead with integrity and keep the focus centered on student success.”

Mr. Nielsen’s selection reflects USBE’s confidence in his leadership and his commitment to serving students well. He steps into this role with a clear vision to strengthen trust, support educators, and ensure USDB continues improving outcomes for students and families. USBE is pleased to welcome him into this new role.

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