

Board Summary

October 2, 2025 Board Meeting

The Utah State Board of Education:

- created a prioritized list of education-related [funding requests](#) for the upcoming 2026 legislative session.
- made amendments to [R277-407, School Fees](#).
- approved an emergency instructional time waiver request for Box Elder School District.
- [Full agenda](#).

Board Makes Statutory Requests

The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) has [requested](#) that USBE staff work with legislators to:

- ensure money currently allocated for Title programs continue to serve the students they are intended to.
- create a revenue neutral plan to ensure Utah citizens are not being short changed with federal education dollars being sent to states.
- remove language permitting the use of driver education funds for
 - pupil transportation and
 - other expenditures related to public education as the Legislature designates in 53F-7-201.
- repeal the Early Learning Plan requirements and requirements for the mathematics plan in code.
- amend the WPU funding formula and distribution for students with disabilities in code.

- provide discretion to USBE in distributing the funds associated with 53F-2-310: stipends for special educators for additional days of work.

For additional information, please contact:

Elisse Newey

Deputy Superintendent of Policy

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

Board Establishes Legislative Funding Priorities

The Utah State Board of Education discussed [funding requests](#) and determined their priorities as:

1. A Weighted Pupil Unit (WPU) increase of 2 percent above the inflationary adjustment.
2. Paraprofessional K-3 Grant Program
3. Beverley Taylor Sorenson Arts Learning Program
4. K-8 Literacy/Numeracy
5. Critical FTE Needs
6. Master Pilot Program
7. Pupil Transportation
8. Early Mathematics Benchmark Assessment
9. Adobe Creative Cloud

For additional information, please contact:

Scott Jones

Deputy Superintendent of Operations

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

Deborah Jacobsen

Assistant Superintendent of Operations 801-538-7627

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

Board Approves Use of Fiscal Year 2025 Carry Forward Funds

The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) approved the FY2025 [carry forward balance](#) and associated spending plans. Each year, after state fiscal accounts close, some unencumbered funds remain from the previous year. Balances exceeding \$100,000 are reviewed by the USBE Finance Committee along with detailed recommendations for how the funds could best support public education priorities. The Board authorized the use of these carry forward balances. This action allows previously unused funds to be reallocated to high-impact programs and strategic needs impacting Utah's K-12 system.

- \$150,000 to support the Every Day Counts attendance campaign. After the 2025-2026 school year, a report will be presented to the board that includes key data.
- \$1,600,000 to address the Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind's (USDB) budget deficit.
- \$3,000,000 in repurposed funds to create a contingency fund for USDB. Staff will provide an itemized list of expenditures to be reviewed by the Board for each \$500,000 that the USDB spends from the \$3,000,000 during the monthly budget report.

The Board also approved the use of [discretionary carry forward funds](#) for fiscal year 2025. With these funds, the Board will:

- continue a USBE contingency fund of \$200,000 and a legal contingency fund of \$250,000.
- use \$350,000 to:
 - Support the office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction with \$100,000
 - Continue onsite security guard services at the USBE office with \$150,000

- Establish a building operations budget for fiscal year 2026, covering various replacements and repairs with \$100,000.
- allocate \$38,500 to support a statewide essay contest commemorating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, for students in grades 5, 8, and high school. The proposed funding breakdown is \$25,000 for 250 awards of \$100 each, \$6,000 for six awards of \$1,000 each, and \$7,500 for three awards of \$2,500 each.

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](#)

Board Modifies Internal Audit Report

The Utah State Board of Education approved a modified [internal audit plan](#), which now will include a consultation for the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind that will be started upon finalization of a consultancy agreement.

For additional information, please contact:

Debbie Davis

Chief Audit Executive

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

Board Updates Ethics Standards in Bylaws

The Utah State Board of Education approved amendments to [Board Bylaws, Article IV, Member Ethics](#), strengthening expectations for member ethics and clarifying standards of conduct. The revisions reflect the Board's ongoing effort to ensure accountability and public trust.

For additional information, please contact:

Elisse Newey

Deputy Superintendent of Policy

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

Board Approves Instructional Time Waiver for Box Elder School District

The Utah State Board of Education has approved a waiver requested by Box Elder School District following the tragic loss of two Tremonton police officers killed in the line of duty earlier this year. In August, the district closed schools for two days so staff and faculty could attend the officers' funerals and support the local community during a time of mourning.

State law normally requires a 180-day instructional year, but the Board's action means the district will not have to make up the two emergency closure days. This waiver recognizes the extraordinary circumstances faced by Box Elder educators, students, and families and honors the community's response to the tragedy.

For additional information, please contact:

Ashley Biehl

Assistant Attorney General

Phone: (801) 538-7685 | [E-mail](#)

Board to Explore UPPAC Processes

The Utah State Board of Education requested that the Law and Licensing committee study the processes and systems of UPPAC. The study should identify strengths and weaknesses and provide a comprehensive report with recommendations to Board leadership by May 30, 2026, for determination of next steps.

For additional information, please contact:

Ben Rasmussen

Director of Law and Professional Practices

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

New Administrative Rules, Amendments, and Repeals

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

- [R277-305, School Leadership License Areas of Concentration and Programs](#). This rule is being amended to align with [SB 66](#).
- [R277-731, Catalyst Center Grant Program Policy](#). This rule is being created as a result of [HB 447](#).
- [R277-407, School Fees](#). This rule is being amended because the definition of non-waivable charge needs to be updated to reflect the legislative changes from [HB 344](#).
- [R277-494, Charter, Online, Home, and Private School Student Participation in Extracurricular or Co-Curricular Activities](#). This rule is being continued upon its five-year review.
- [R277-319, Special Educator Stipends](#). This rule is being continued upon its five year review.

- [R277-469, Instructional Materials Operating Procedures](#). This rule is being amended to be in compliance with [HB 191](#) and to include new requirements related to LEAs using the packet method.
- [R277-717, High School Course Grading Requirements](#). This rule is being amended to be in compliance with [HB 191](#) and to include new requirements related to LEAs using the packet method.
- [R277-721, PRIME Pilot Program](#). This rule is being continued upon its five year review.

Board Approves Consent Calendar

The Utah State Board of Education approved its consent calendar. Items 11.1.7 and 11.4 were separated and approved.

Meeting Highlights for Friday's Committee Meetings

The Utah State Board of Education [Law and Licensing, Standards and Assessments, and Finance Committees](#) met on Friday, October 3. Any items approved in committee meetings will be heard by the full Board during its November meeting.

Law and Licensing Committee met in a hybrid format from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Meeting highlights include:

- [Preliminary approval of R277-100, Definitions for Utah State Board of Education Rules.](#)
- Preliminary approval of [R277-311, Specialized Endorsements.](#)

Standards and Assessment Committee met in a hybrid format from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Meeting highlights include:

- Preliminary approval of [R277-325, Public Education Exit and Engagement Surveys.](#)

- Preliminary revision of [Alternate Science Standards \(DLM-EEs\)](#).

Finance Committee met in a virtual format from 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Meeting highlights include:

- Preliminary approval of a working group on the [Voted and Board Local Levy Program](#).
- Preliminary support of [the Utah Community Math Initiative: Math Workshop and Research Proposal](#).