



**UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-01  
Adopted February 5, 2026**

**A Resolution Commemorating America's 250th  
Birthday and Her Guiding Foundational Principles**

WHEREAS, celebrating 250 years since America's founding, the Utah State Board of Education acknowledges and remembers the guiding and foundational principles and truths that have established and given birth to America's freedom and success as a nation thus a people cannot remain free without a thorough knowledge of these principles; and

WHEREAS, the Declaration of Independence boldly and clearly identified the political philosophy of America when it stated, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness", and that government's sole legitimate purpose is to protect those pre-existing rights; the American system is built upon the idea that governments derive "their just powers from the consent of the governed"; and

WHEREAS, the core political beliefs of the Founding Fathers included: ordered liberty; equality; natural rights, including defense of self, community, and nation; freedom of speech and the press; and the free exercise of religion;

WHEREAS, America was founded as a Constitutional Republic, establishing separation of powers and federalism under a written constitution; thereby avoiding the fatal tendencies of a democracy; and

WHEREAS, the stability of our Republic relies upon self-governance, a principle requiring that citizens govern their own conduct according to moral virtue and internal conscience — a "moral and religious people" being, as the Founders noted, the only people capable of sustaining a free nation; and

WHEREAS, the Founding Fathers recognized historical events and texts — such as the Ten Commandments, the Mosaic Law, the New Testament, and the experiences of the ancient Hebrews, Greeks, and Romans, the English Common Law, the Magna Carta, and the English Bill of Rights — as a basis for American law and public policy; and

WHEREAS, historical primary sources — including the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 — record that "religion, morality, and knowledge" are "necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind," and therefore must be encouraged through our schools; and

WHEREAS, America's history from the past 250 years has been marked by the prevalence of faith and Divine Providence, and her history affirms a clear and firm reliance

on God and the Bible.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, public education plays a vital role in preparing students to be informed, responsible, and engaged citizens who are capable of understanding the nation's founding principles and history, respecting rights of conscience, and participating thoughtfully in civic responsibilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Utah State Board of Education reaffirms its commitment to the principles upheld in the Declaration of Independence and that public education strengthens understanding of America's constitutional heritage and prepares students to sustain the principles of liberty, equality before the law, and self-government for the nation's next 250 years.

ADOPTED THIS 5<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Hymas", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Matthew Hymas  
USBE Board Chair