



Utah First Credential Master Plan Memo

To: Education Interim Committee

On behalf of the Utah State Board of Education, the Utah System of Higher Education, and the Governor's Office, we are pleased to share the Utah First Credential Master Plan. This plan provides a framework for the First Credential Program outlined in HB 260 (GS 2025). The framework aligns efforts across K-12, higher education, and industry to ensure each Utah student has the opportunity to graduate with a credential that holds real value in both college and career.

The Master Plan was developed under the guidance of the First Credential Oversight Committee, with cross-collaboration from educators, employers, higher education, and community partners statewide. Together, we have outlined a clear vision for how Utah can strengthen pathways that connect learning to opportunity.

The First Credential Program is a comprehensive education initiative and an economic development strategy that:

- **Secures opportunity for each learner** by providing clear, supported pathways to college and career that include technical and durable skills.
- **Strengthens Utah's education system** by aligning tools and efforts to modernize programs, reduce duplication, and expand offerings.
- **Builds a reliable talent pipeline** for Utah's high-demand industries, ensuring job-ready graduates.
- **Drives long-term economic competitiveness** by aligning education with employer demands and fostering statewide prosperity.

We invite you to review the Utah First Credential Master Plan as you prepare for the upcoming legislative session. Your continued leadership and support are essential to ensuring that each Utah student benefits from a cohesive, high-quality education-to-career system.

Thank you for your commitment to Utah's students and to the future of our state.

Geoffrey Landward
Commissioner of Higher Education

Rich Nye
Senior Advisor of Education

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*State Superintendent of
Public Instruction*