



February 2024

Indicator 8 Student Lists are Ready!

Participating LEAs:

If you are one of the participating in LEAs and you are unable to find your list or the email with instructions, please email susie.estrada@schools.utah.gov or If your LEA is participating in the 2023-2024 Indicator 8 survey cycle, your student list is ready for download and review in UPIPS. You should have received an email with instructions. Participating LEAs are:

- Advantage Arts Academy (AAA)
- Alpine District

Indicator 8 Student Lists Continued!

- Millard School District
- Monticello Academy
- Mountain Sunrise Academy
- Mountain View Montessori
- Murray School District
- Navigator Pointe Academy
- Nebo School District
- No. Ut. Academy for Math Engineering & Science
- Odyssey Charter School
- Ogden City School District
- Ogden Preparatory Academy
- Open Classroom

- American Academy of Innovation
- American Preparatory Academy
- Ascent Academy
- Athlos Academy of Utah
- Beehive Science & Technology
- Bridge Elementary School
- C.S. Lewis Academy
- Cache District
- Canyon Rim Academy
- Career Academy of Utah
- Channing Hall
- DaVinci Academy
- Davis School District
- Dual Immersion Academy
- Edith Bowen Laboratory School
- Emery District
- Entheos Academy
- Franklin Discovery Academy
- Freedom Preparatory Academy
- Gateway Preparatory Academy
- Good Foundations Academy
- Granite School District
- Hawthorn Academy
- Highmark Charter School
- Ignite Entrepreneurship Academy
- InTech Collegiate Academy
- Itineris Early College High
- Jordan School District
- Juab School District
- Kane School District
- Lakeview Academy
- Pacific Heritage Academy
- Park City School District
- Pinnacle Canyon Academy
- Piute School District
- Quest Academy
- Renaissance Academy
- Rich School District
- Salt Lake Arts Academy
- Salt Lake School District
- Soldier Hollow Charter School
- South Sanpete School District
- South Summit School District
- St. George Academy
- Success Academy
- Thomas Edison
- Timpanogos Academy
- Utah Career Path High School
- Utah Connections Academy
- Utah County Academy of Science (UCAS)
- Utah International Charter School
- Utah Military Academy
- Utah Schools for Deaf & Blind (USDB)
- Utah Virtual Academy
- Valley Academy
- Vista at Entrada School of Performing Arts and Technology (Vista School)
- Voyage Academy
- Wallace Stegner Academy

- Legacy Preparatory Academy
- Logan City School District
- Merit College Preparatory Academy
- Wasatch School District
- Wasatch Peak Academy
- Wasatch Waldorf Charter School
- Washington School District

Thank you to those who have already submitted their list!



Virtual Learning Opportunity Alert

[Register here to attend](#) the 2024 Western Region Community Schools Convening on February 16, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. MST.

Join Community School leaders from across the western states to build community and share best practices about developing and advancing Community Schools. This virtual convening is open to anyone who is currently engaged with Community Schools or interested in learning more about this transformational strategy and will include panels, breakout sessions, and role-alike learning exchanges.

Involving Families in Decision Making

Student voice, student choice was the theme of a presentation Susie Estrada led in 2023. This presentation highlighted the ways that student interest, culture(s), and talents can be used to maximize learning and engagement in the classroom or in the out-of-school time (e.g., before school, afterschool, or summer program) space. Student voice and autonomy are extremely valuable in helping students guide and monitor their learning. For a more comprehensive review of research-based strategies for educators, please reference [the Family Engagement with Students at the Center](#) publication by the Ohio State University, Center on Education and Training for Employment.

On page two you will find four specific, research-informed recommendations for middle and high schools. Focusing on the second recommendation, "empower students to become collaborators and decision-makers in designing and improving the school's family engagement practices", we can apply this same recommendation to the IEP process. Ownership and self-advocacy are important skills students will need lifelong. During the IEP process and at each developmental stage families and educators must work collaboratively to ensure students are active participants in the IEP process. Students should be active participants in the IEP and goals should be set with their input, interest, and long-term goals in mind. Students should be aware of their goals and be able to state them if asked.

Family input is just as crucial. So how do we get families to encourage their students to participate, especially if they are new to the process? The Alliance for a Healthier Generation has created a [two-page brief](#) highlighting what America's Healthiest Schools are doing to involve families in decision-making. What we can apply to the IEP process from this brief is the importance of providing opportunities for parents and family members to share knowledge, experiences, and stories.

Some potential strategies:

- ♦ Set time aside during the IEP to go over the hard stuff. That is, make sure that any emotionally charged or academically heavy topics are covered first. Ensure that there is time to process these points of conversation and that there is enough time to answer all of the family's questions before moving on to the next point on the agenda. Families are sharing that they are unable to fully participate in IEPs when they are overloaded or overwhelmed with the information they are receiving.
 - Make sure families receive information before the meeting so they can come prepared with questions and frontloaded information.
 - Schedule the meeting for multiple hours and be prepared to set up a second date if needed. IEP teams are working to ensure that the best education is provided to students, and this means ensuring that all team members understand and agree with the IEP. To embrace and participate fully in each role, each member must be fully informed and prepared.
 - Come ready with all options available to meet the needs of the student. Members of the IEP team may each have a different vision of what is the best way to meet the IEP goals. Using the student's voice and family input, present all options that best support IEP

goals and understand that some negotiation, education, and compromise on behalf of all parties might be required.

- Create a parent group.
 - Ask families if they would like to connect with other families whose student(s) are receiving special education services. Schedule parent meetings for families to connect to share their concerns, questions, or needs. This group can be facilitated by a parent leader or by a school community member who can help facilitate these conversations.
 - Schedule workshops based on parent feedback for areas they are most in need of. Are parents new to the IEP process and need more information on procedural safeguards? Or are your parents most concerned about postsecondary transition?
- Indicator 8 Survey
 - Identify questions of most interest or need at your LEA and conduct pulse checks at various points of the school year to check for progress towards more positive involvement rates.
 - Utilize your survey to set goals focused on improving parent involvement with the special education process.

Have you checked out our new [Family and Community Engagement webpage](#)? Check back often as we continue to post more resources to support family and community engagement in Utah!

Have a Minute? Take This Quiz!

Are you an engagement whiz? Education Week has shared a short quiz to test how much you know about connecting schools and communities. [Take the quiz here!](#)

Items to Watch

Senator Johnson is sponsoring S.B. 164, Family Outreach Amendments. This bill establishes the Family Outreach Program. This bill allows a school to apply to create a Family Outreach Program. [Read more here.](#)

It's official! Registration is now open for the 2024 National Community Schools & Family Engagement Conference.



Never been to CSxFE before? Watch the video below to see what all the fuss is about! <https://youtu.be/0TNHT77yoIM>

Starting May 29th, 2024 at IEL's National Community Schools and Family Engagement Conference, you'll have the opportunity to learn and engage in pre-conferences, plenaries, workshops, state-based networking sessions, a block party, and much more! To get more information and register, visit [this webpage](#).

Do you have something you want to celebrate?

Email: susie.estrada@schools.utah.gov

Include a description of your celebration and a picture of what would best represent your celebration. If the picture is of a person, a media release form is required and will be supplied upon request.



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