

Springboard School Program 2025-2029

Overview

[Utah Code 53E-5-301\(12\)](#) and [Utah Code 53E-5-302](#) direct the USBE, beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, to designate a school as a Springboard school.

What are Springboard Schools?

A district or charter school that has been designated a Springboard school by the USBE because the school: Is a non-Title I school; and when ranked according to the percentage of possible points the state awards averaged over three (3) years is:

1. One of the five (5) lowest performing elementary, middle, or junior high schools statewide OR is:
2. One of the two (2) lowest performing high schools statewide.

What is the Timeline for Springboard Designation and support?

SY 2025-2026: Identification of Springboard schools and planning.

SY 2026-2027: First year of implementation (second year in program)

SY 2027-2028: Second year of implementation with an exit opportunity (third year in the program).

SY 2028-2029: Third of implementation with a second exit opportunity (fourth year in the program).

What is the cycle for identification of Springboard Schools?

- The cycle for Springboard designation is every four (4) years beginning in SY 2025-2026.
- The next designation for Springboard schools will be in SY 2029-2030

Is there funding for Springboard schools?

- Per [USBE Board Rule R277-920-7](#) and subject to legislative appropriations, each Springboard school shall receive at least \$375,000.00 one-time allocation.

Springboard School Program 2025-2029

Are there restrictions for the use of these one-time funds?

- The only provision for the use of these funds are the local education board shall use at least a portion of the funding distributed to contract with a continuous improvement expert, including travel costs, in accordance with [Utah Code 53E-5-303](#) and [Utah Code 53E-5-304](#) ([USB Board Rule R277-920-7](#)).

What are the requirements for all Springboard school?

- Springboard schools are required to:
 - Complete a Needs Assessment and Root Cause Analysis ([Utah Code 53E-5-302](#))
 - Create a School Improvement Plan [Utah Code 53E-5-303\(5\)](#) and [Utah Code 53E-5-304\(8\)\(a\)](#)
 - Create a School Improvement Committee [Utah Code 53E-5-303\(1\)](#) or [Utah Code 53E-5-304\(4\)\(a\)](#)
 - Partner with a Continuous Improvement Expert [Utah Code 53E-5-303\(4\)](#) or [Utah Code 53E-5-304\(8\)](#)
 - Requires a proposal and subsequent approval by [USB Utah Code 53E-5-303\(1\)\(a\)](#)
 - Provide initial and annual notice and communication of progress [Utah Code 53E-5-303\(6\)\(d\)](#) or [Utah Code 53E-5-304\(11\)\(b\)](#)

What are the requirements for *District* Springboard schools?

- Solicit and contract with a Continuous Improvement Expert [Utah Code 53E-5-303\(4\)](#)
- Prioritize funding and resources [Utah Code 53E-5-303\(6\)a](#)
- Grant the Springboard school streamlined authority over staff, schedule, policies, budget, and academic programs to implement the school improvement plan [Utah Code 53E-5-303\(6\)b](#)
- Assist the Continuous Improvement Expert with addressing root cause(s) of low performance and in the development of the school improvement plan

Springboard School Program 2025-2029

[Utah Code 53E-5-303\(c\)](#)

What are the requirements for *Charter* Springboard schools?

Charter School Authorizer shall initiate a review to determine whether the charter school is in compliance with the school's charter agreement described in [Utah Code 53G-5-303](#), including the school's established minimum standards for student achievement; and make a determination on the state of a springboard school's charter agreement (may terminate the school's charter).

If the charter school is not terminated, they are required to:

- Contract with a Continuous Improvement Expert [Utah Code 53E-5-304\(8\)](#)
- Assist the Continuous Improvement Expert with addressing root cause(s) of low performance and in the development of the school improvement plan [Utah Code 53E-5-304\(8\)](#)
- In accordance with deadlines established by the state board, a charter school authorizer of a springboard school shall initiate a review to determine whether the charter school is in compliance with the school's charter agreement including the school's established minimum standards for student achievement [\(Utah Code 53E-5-304\(1\)\)](#)

Who is required to be on the *District* School Improvement Committee?

For school districts ([Utah Code 53E-5-303\(1\)](#)), the required school improvement committee members include but are not limited to;

- the local school board member who represents the voting district where the school is located.
- the school principal.
- three parents of students appointed by the chair of the school community council.
- one teacher at the school appointed by the principal.
- one teacher at the school appointed by the school district superintendent:
and

Springboard School Program 2025-2029

- one school district administrator.

Who is required to be on the *Charter* School Improvement Committee?

- For Charters ([Utah Code 53E-5-304\(4\)](#)), the required school improvement committee members include but are not limited to:
 - a member of the charter school governing board, appointed by the chair of the charter school governing board.
 - the school principal.
 - three parents of students enrolled in the school appointed by the chair of the charter school governing board: and
 - two teachers at the school, appointed by the school principal.

What is required in the School Improvement Plan?

School Improvement Plans must include the following per [Utah Code 53E-5-303\(5\)](#):

- How the school/charter will address root causes of low performance identified in the needs assessment.
- Include *recommendations* regarding changes to:
 - School/Charter personnel
 - Culture
 - Curriculum
 - Assessments
 - Instructional practices
 - Governance
 - Leadership
 - Finances
 - Policies
 - Other areas necessary to implement the improvement plan.

Springboard School Program 2025-2029

- Measurable student achievement goals, objectives, and benchmarks to measure progress.
- Professional development plan that identifies strategies to address problems with instructional practice.
- Detailed budget specifying how the school improvement plan will be funded including:
 - A plan to assess and monitor progress.
 - A plan to communicate and report data on progress to stakeholders.
 - A timeline for implementation

Is there a list of USBE pre-approved Continuous Improvement Expert Providers?

- Yes. The School Support and Improvement Section maintains a list of pre-approved Continuous Improvement Experts who are eligible to respond to a District or Charter Springboard LEA's solicitation for services per [Utah Code 53E-5-305](#)

Are there required reporting timelines?

- Yes. On or before June 1 of the initial remedial year, the school improvement committee must submit the school improvement plan to their school governing board for approval [Utah Code 53E-5-303\(7\)](#) or [Utah Code 53E-5-304\(9\)](#)
- On or before July 1, of the initial remedial year, the school governing board will submit to USBE their approved Springboard school improvement plan for USBE review and approval [Utah Code 53E-5-303\(7\)](#) or [Utah Code 53E-5-304\(9\)](#)
- Annually, a school board or designee shall report to the USBE as well as to the

Springboard School Program 2025-2029

parents, governing council and mayor of the municipality in which the school is located, progress towards the goals, benchmarks, and timetable in the school improvement plan [Utah Code 53E-5-303](#) or [Utah Code 53E-5-304](#)

What are the exit criteria for Springboard Schools?

- Springboard schools may exit¹ when they meet the following two exit criteria:
 1. Reduce the gap in performance by one-third between the school's baseline performance from the year they were identified; and
 - 55% of all points possible if a school is an elementary, middle, or junior high school; or
 - 57% of all points possible if the school is a high school.
 2. The school's performance must exceed the cut score for the lowest performing 5% of Title I schools from the year the school was identified.
- Springboard schools are eligible to exit Springboard in the third or fourth year after which the school was identified.
- If a Springboard school does not exit within four years, the school may request an extension.

What are the implications for a Springboard schools that fail to exit after their fourth year?

Per [Utah Code 53E-5-306\(3\)\(a\)](#) and [USB E Administrative Rule R277-920-9](#) Springboard school that fails to exit in the fourth year may petition for an extension to continue school improvement efforts for up to two years.

An extension may be granted if the Springboard school:

- Reduces the gap in performance by one-fourth between the school's baseline performance from the year they were identified; and
 - a. 55% of all points possible if a school is an elementary, middle, or junior high school; or

¹ [Utah Accountability Technical Manual pgs. 43-45](#)

Springboard School Program 2025-2029

- b. 57% of all points possible if the school is a high school; and
- The school's performance must exceed the cut score for the lowest 3% of all schools in the ranking of schools from the year the school was scheduled to exit; or
- Has met only one of the exit criteria and electronically files an extension request that provides a rationale justifying an extension.

What are the implications for a District Springboard school that fail to improve after the fourth year or the last year of the extension period?

Per [Utah Code 53E-5-306\(4\)\(a\)](#) if a District Springboard school does not meet the exit criteria after the school's final remedial year or the last school year of the extension period, the USBE may intervene by restructuring a district school which may include contract management, conversion to a charter school, or other appropriate actions as determined by the USBE [Utah Code 53E-5-306\(4\)\(c\)](#).

What are the implications for a Charter school that fails to improve after the fourth year or the last year of the extension period?

Per [Utah Code 53E-5-306\(4\)\(b\)](#) if a Charter Springboard school does not meet exit criteria after the school's final remedial year or the last school year of the extension period, the state board may intervene by restructuring a charter school by: terminating a school's charter agreement; closing a charter school; or transferring operation and control of the charter school to: a high performing charter school; or the school district in which the charter school is located; or other appropriate action as determined by the USBE [Utah Code 53E-5-306\(4\)\(c\)](#).

Contact

Dr. Gregory Firn

School Improvement Specialist

Phone: (801) 538-7846 | E-mail: gregory.firn@schools.utah.gov