

# Internal Audit: Eyes on Education

## Internal Audit Department – Utah State Board of Education (USBE)

### Risk

“The **possibility** of an event occurring that will have an impact on the achievement of objectives. Risk is measured in terms of **impact** and **likelihood**.”

– *Institute of Internal Auditors*

Risk is the “**effect** of **uncertainty** on **objectives**.”

– *ISO 31000*

### How do we identify risk?

Internal Audit looks at information provided by:

- Internal Audits
- External Audits
- Hotlines
- Emails
- Consultations
- Legislative Meetings
- Board/Committee Meetings
- Internal Meetings
- Risk Assessment Interviews
- Newspaper/Social Media
- Advisory Councils
- Observations
- Data Analysis
- National Trends
- Industry Trends



Have you seen a risk to public education?  
Send it our way for consideration!

Utah State Board of Education, Internal Audit Dept.:

- (801) 538-7813
- [audit@schools.utah.gov](mailto:audit@schools.utah.gov)

### How do we assess risk?

Risk assessments should be made based on the strategic objectives of the USBE and consideration of the cause for the risk.

Diverse input is provided by Internal Audit, USBE staff and management, and public education stakeholders who consider finances, operations, compliance, reputation, legality, and political pressure.



### How do we handle risk?

Once risk has been identified and assessed, it may be:

1. **Accepted** and **monitored** periodically,
2. **Assigned** to a risk owner for action and reporting, who may use Root Cause Analysis to fully examine the situation by studying:
  - **Design**: Do policies set the tone and ethics for an organization? Are they comprehensive (detailed) and formal (written)?
  - **Implementation**: Are these policies put into action through training, accessibility, and by leader example?
  - **Operating Effectiveness**: Are the actions monitored to ensure that the policies are being followed and working well?

Or, the assessed risk may be:

3. **Prioritized** as an audit to gain additional information which will be used to determine appropriate action.

Risk mitigation is really about continuous improvement and excellence.

Together we can work to improve education in Utah for each student!

