



# NEWS RELEASE

## Utah State Board of Education

250 EAST 500 SOUTH P.O. BOX 144200 SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84114-4200  
[www.schools.utah.gov](http://www.schools.utah.gov)

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Contact: Mark Peterson, public relations director  
801-538-7635 · [mark.peterson@schools.utah.gov](mailto:mark.peterson@schools.utah.gov)

### Superintendent Thanks State's Congressional Delegation for Help in Getting Dual Immersion Teachers to Utah Classrooms

SALT LAKE CITY – State Superintendent of Public Instruction Sydnee Dickson thanked Utah's representatives in the Congress, led by John R. Curtis, with assistance from Rob Bishop, Ben McAdams, and Chris Stewart and Senators Mike Lee and Mitt Romney, for their help exempting foreign teachers who will teach in Utah [dual language immersion \(DLI\)](#) schools this fall from President Trump's June 22 proclamation suspending entry of aliens into the United States. The members of the House delegation wrote as a group to the President seeking a national security exemption on the suspension to allow Utah's DLI program to continue. Both Utah senators' offices also pressed for an exemption, which has now been approved.

"We are grateful for the bipartisan help from our Representatives in the House and Senate. These international teachers are necessary to keep Utah's DLI program, which is one of the leading programs in the nation, running at full capacity this school year," said Superintendent Sydnee Dickson.

“I am thrilled that our concerns were heard and that Dual Language Immersion teachers will be allowed to receive visas this year,” Rep. Curtis said. “This is good policy for our students and all Utahns, and I am proud to have been a strong advocate for this program. International DLI teachers bring valuable diverse experiences and cultures to the classroom and I am glad to see that they will qualify for a national interest exemption from visa restrictions. I will continue to work with the State, the Administration, and my colleagues to ensure these teachers can continue the important work they do in Utah.”

“I’m pleased that the State Department has granted these waivers, which will allow Utah’s school districts to obtain cultural exchange visas so their teachers can continue their work during the next school year,” Senator Romney said. “I’m proud to advocate for Utah’s students and will continue working to advocate for our school districts to have access to the resources they need.”

Utah schools employ 290 teachers who conduct classroom instruction in French, German, Mandarin Chinese, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish for roughly 60,000 public school students. Fifty-six of those teachers come to Utah from abroad and require [J-1](#) or [H-1B](#) visas to work in Utah. In April, President Trump signed a [proclamation](#) that suspended entry into the United States “aliens who present a risk to the U.S. labor market following the Coronavirus outbreak.”

Sen. Romney’s office confirmed that U.S. embassies abroad are once again able to issue those visas under a national security exemption to teachers who plan to work in Utah this school year.

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