

Educator Licensing Newsletter



Podcast Version

You can now LISTEN to the newsletter instead of reading it! [Click here to listen](#) to the 4/11/2025 Educator Licensing Newsletter Podcast (created by NotebookLM).

Utah’s Foundations of Reading Assessment (UFORA)

Candidates in Elementary, Early Childhood, and Special Education who do not pass the Utah Foundations of Reading Assessment (UFORA) with a score of 240 or higher, may complete any of the [UFORA Assessment Options](#) to meet the licensing requirement.

USIMS Errors & Workarounds

Any individual who encounters any error or issue with USIMS should contact USIMShelp@schools.utah.gov

If you have any specific feedback for the Educator Licensing team to consider, please contact [Malia Hite](#).

(801) 538-7740
[Educator Licensing Website](#)
[Link to Previous Newsletters](#)



Salary Supplement for Highly Needed Educators (SHiNE)

In the 2024 General Session, [SB 173](#) created the Salary Supplement for Highly Needed Educators (SHiNE) program. This program will take the place of the Teacher Salary Supplement Program (TSSP) in the 2025-2026 school year. The intent of the bill is to allow individual LEAs to determine which teachers are highly needed in their schools. ***A highly needed educator means a teacher who is filling a position that is challenging to fill or retain.*** Funds will be allocated to LEAs based on student enrollment count and disbursed to LEAs in 1/12th payments.
[Salary Supplement for Highly Needed Educators Guidance](#)
[SHiNE LEA High Needs Area Report FY26](#)

Be a part of USIMS future! Join US for the USIMS Educator Domain LEA Workshop/Open House

Date: April 29, 2025
Time: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Location: Utah State Board of Education North & South Boardrooms
Come explore the amazing features and functionality of the USIMS Educator Domain as we develop new futures. Get hands - on experience with the software on our interactive workstations and provide input and feedback.
More information about the [OPEN HOUSE INVITE](#).

R277-304 Teacher Preparation Programs

Here’s the updated [R277-304](#) approved by the Board. It delayed the implementation date for General Teacher Preparation Competencies until September 2026 and adopted the Special Education Foundational Competencies with a September 2027. It renames two special education endorsements:

- Old name → New name
- Mild/Moderate Disabilities → Minimal/Moderate Support Needs
- Severe Disabilities → Complex Support Needs

FINAL Special Ed Preparation Foundational Competencies

Here is the final draft [Special Education Preparation Foundational Competencies](#) incorporated by reference with all changes approved by the Board and updated with USBE Branding Guidelines.

Proposed updates to R277-331 Stipends for Future Educators

The Law & Licensing Committee approved [Draft 2 R277-331 Stipends for Future Educators](#) and will be forwarded to the Board in May. The draft includes changes to the program from [HB204](#) Stipends for Future Educators Grant Program Amendments.