October 13, 2026

Educator Licensing Newsletter



Podcast Version
You can now LISTEN to the newsletter instead of reading it! **Click here to listen** to the 10/13/2026 Educator Licensing Newsletter Podcast (created by NotebookLM).

Sign up for Newsletter Listserv
If you would like to receive future Licensing Newsletters, please subscribe to the Licensing News Listserv through UEN.

Licensing Team Availability
Beginning in June, the licensing team will meet Monday mornings 9-10:30am. We will not be available during that time for phone calls or educator meetings. We will still offer "office hours" each day 12pm-2pm. Hop into the meeting with your questions at any time between 12pm-2pm.

Licensing Coaching
Book a licensing coaching session: Book time with Malia Hite

If you have any specific feedback for the Educator Licensing team to consider, please contact Malia Hite.

(801) 538-7740
Educator Licensing Website

Utah State Board of Education | Educator Licensing

Transition to USIMS Anticipated Timeline

The USIMS development team is in the final stages of product validation to deliver USIMS for LEA Users. Please review the ***anticipated timeline*** for the USIMS general release:

- **CACTUS & RDS Offline:** Friday, October 23rd at Noon
- **USIMS Launch Week:** The week of October 26th.
  - **System Setup & Data Check:** USBE teams will verify migrated data before opening access. During this time, the Public Look-up Tool will remain live for real-time license checks.
  - **Account Setup:** Current CACTUS users will receive an email with login credentials, setup instructions, training materials, and support details.
  - **Self-Paced Training:** Complete quick, task-based video walkthroughs anytime through the online learning portal (no live training session). You can also review the First Look Training held last fall (Webinar Video or Presentation Slides).
  - **Live Support:** Access daily office hours (8 AM – 5 PM) or the USIMS Help Desk for live assistance. Links will be provided via email, the training portal, and upcoming Licensing Newsletters.

Endorsement Simplification Project

In support of the Board's Strategic Plan, we are exploring updates to the educator endorsement system to simplify the current structure of over 250 endorsements and give LEAs greater hiring flexibility. While we are moving quickly to evaluate solutions, we have not finalized any decisions. We are eager to incorporate stakeholder feedback and will share upcoming opportunities for input in future Licensing Newsletters. For more information, please contact Malia Hite.

Teacher Qualification Updates, R277-309 Appropriate Licensing/Assignment of Teachers

The Law & Licensing Committee approved R277-309 Draft 2 to expand and clarify qualifications for secondary teachers, specifically AP/IB/CE teachers. The rule amendments were drafted in collaboration with state legislators and the Utah System of Higher Education (USHE).

School Counselors License Requirements Update

Praxis for School Counselor is no longer a licensing requirement. University programs may still require the exam as a part of their degree/program requirements. For more information, please contact Bethany Marker.

Elementary Content Competencies Stakeholder Feedback

We are seeking stakeholder feedback on the Elementary Content Competencies and would appreciate your feedback, via Qualtrics Survey**.** The Elementary Content Competencies are designed for educator preparation programs (universities and APPEL) to verify that elementary and early childhood licensure candidates possess the knowledge and skills needed to teach content in grades K-6. The survey will be available until **October 30th**. For more information, please contact Liz Bernfeld .

NASDTEC & National Novice Educator Essential Competencies (NEEC)

The National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education & Certification (NASDTEC) is launching Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) regional meetings. The goal is to meet quarterly with EPP members (typically universities) and state program support with discussions on current work, initiatives, and supporting one another across each region.

The Novice Educator Essential Competencies (NEEC) initiative, a multi-state effort focused on identifying the essential knowledge, skills, and dispositions of novice teachers, will be the topic for first regional meetings. The NEEC Task Force (including Malia Hite) will share information about the two year project and garner input. The meetings are limited to 100 participants each.

Please click on the link below to register for the Western Region EPP Meeting – November 10th at 1:00 PM (MST) (Limited to 100 participants) Register Now!