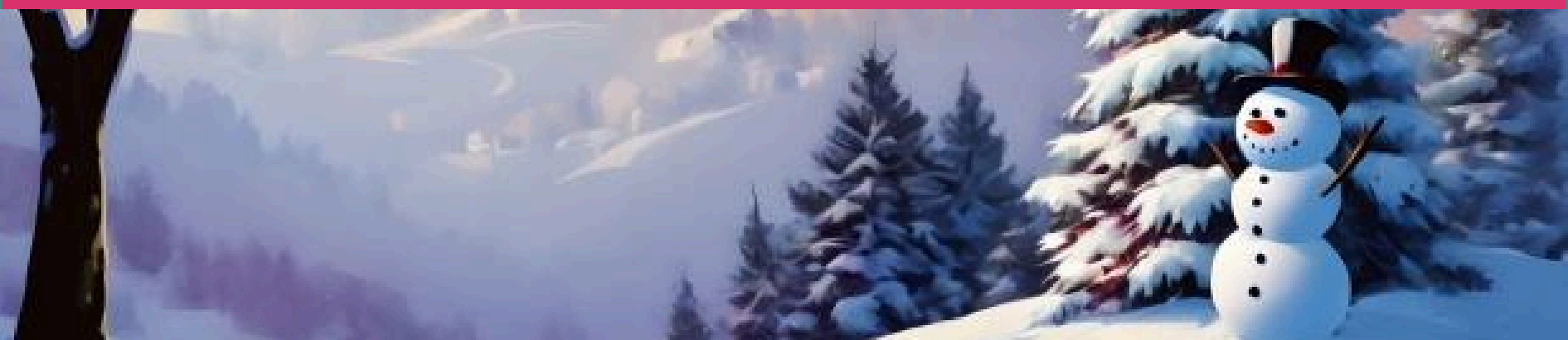


# Educator Licensing Newsletter



## Podcast Version

You can now LISTEN or WATCH the newsletter instead of reading it! [Click here to listen/watch](#) the 12/03/2025 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.

## Change to APPEL Website URL

The Educator Preparation team created a new website and moved the [APPEL Programs page](#) from Licensing to the new [Educator Preparation website](#). Please adjust your records accordingly.

## USIMS Errors & Workarounds

Any individual who encounters any error or issue with USIMS should contact [USIMShelp@schools.utah.gov](mailto:USIMShelp@schools.utah.gov)

## 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

## CACTUS Still Working/Available!

Due to complications in USIMS development, the **CACTUS RDS is still available for LEA users**. It will remain online and available until further notice. **It will likely be available through the winter holiday break.**

## USIMS Transition Update

Some LEAs will begin beta-testing USIMS in late December. All LEAs will begin using USIMS sometime mid- or late-January. Both USIMS and CACTUS will be offline for a few days prior to the statewide shift to USIMS so we can ensure that USIMS is ready for all LEAs to begin using in late-January. We will notify you of transition dates once they are finalized. Please review the **video** (<https://bit.ly/1stUSIMSvideo>) or **slides** (<https://bit.ly/1stUSIMS>). For more questions, please contact [Malia Hite](#).

## Simplified Route to Secondary

Recent USBE policy updates simplify how some teachers can add the Secondary (6-12) license area to their professional license. Read about the [Simplified Route to Secondary](#). Teachers can apply for the Secondary license area thru Endorsement Only & LER Upgrade applications. We will notify educators who qualify immediately by email.

## Earning Additional Content Endorsements by Test

The USBE is working on an implementation plan for the recent policy change that allows professionally licensed teachers to earn additional endorsements through a test. More information will be provided in January.

## Online Endorsement Courses Available

New online courses available for [English Language Arts and Social Studies endorsements](#) provided by a collaborative effort with USBE, Regional Education Service Agencies (RESAs), and SUU. Salt Lake Community College (SLCC) is offering many [teacher education courses](#) for Elementary, Secondary, Special Education Math, Health, and Physical Education.

## Educator Shortage Areas (Criticality Index)

The Teacher Shortage Areas have been approved for the 2024-25 school year that determine [TH Bell scholarship areas](#). The total number of underqualified educators (meaning anything short of Professional licensure/endorsement for assignment) is **down this year to 11.82%**. Last year 13.39% of all educators were underqualified. Elementary education is still the critical shortage area. You may view the [2025 Shortage Areas](#) and [2024 Shortage Areas](#). Staff believe the success of competency-based licensure, APPEL programs, and decreasing student enrollment contribute to the increase of professionally licensed educators.

## Office Hours with Licensing

The licensing team is offering "Office hours" on Friday's from 12pm-2pm. As a reminder, this is not a meeting with the licensing team. You can just hop into the meeting with your questions at any time between 12pm-2pm on Friday. For more questions, please contact [Jane Conway](#).

## Spring APPEL courses schedule at Salt Lake City

Attached is a list of the [APPEL courses available Spring semester at Salt Lake Community College](#). Please reach out to [Maria Griffin](#) if you have any questions.

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