DISCUSSION: Measuring the Results of Appropriations for Specific Programs
Utah State Board of Education Finance Committee
March 8, 2024

Overview: The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) currently operates under performance measures mandated by legislation. However, there exists an opportunity to enhance our understanding of the impact of allocated funding by incorporating additional data and information focused on the specific benefits or positive outcomes derived from these investments, using an agreed-upon standard of measure.

Key Questions to Address:
- How effectively are we tracking the allocation and utilization of our funding?
- Can we establish a clear connection between our financial allocations and measurable outcomes?
- What criteria do we employ to evaluate the outcomes achieved through our internal budget?
- How is the state office monitoring the efficiency and effectiveness of our expenditures, ensuring maximum return on investment?
- How do we align these outcomes with our overarching objective of student success?
- What mechanisms do we utilize to link performance measures from inputs to outcomes?
- While acknowledging the challenge of distinguishing correlation from causation, how can we ensure that pertinent questions regarding the efficacy of our investments are addressed?

Process:
- Develop a proof-of-concept logic model, focusing on programs identified by the Finance Committee in March 2024.
- USBE staff will present these draft models to the Finance Committee in May 2024, seeking feedback and additional guidance on subsequent steps.
- Once the model is refined, the agency will systematically apply it to various programs and departments.
- Utilize the outcomes generated from these discussions to inform internal budgetary adjustments.

Logic Model Elements:
- Program line-item identification.
- Definition of short-term outputs and outcomes.
- Alignment with established Performance Measures.
- Identification of personnel roles and responsibilities within the model.
- Opportunity to reinforce alignment with the agency's mission and vision.

Potential Programs for Proof-of-Concept Phase:
- Beverley Taylor Sorenson Arts (BTSA)
- Digital Teaching and Learning (DTL)
- Dual Language Immersion (DLI)
- Competency-based Education Initiatives
- To and From Pupil Transportation Services