

Form - Application/Cover Sheet

UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Waiver of Administrative Rule

UAC R277-121 allows an LEA to request a waiver from a Board rule. This cover sheet should be used as a checklist in preparation of necessary materials and supporting documents.

LEA: Utah County Academy of Sciences

SCHOOL(S): Utah County Academy of Sciences

RULE REQUESTING TO BE WAIVED:

Minimum School Days:

Rule Number and Title: R277-419-5(1)(a) Minimum School Days: "... an LEA shall conduct school for at least 990 hours of instructional services over a minimum of 180 school days each school year."

High School Requirements: R277-700-6

"(13) The Arts (1.5 units of credit from any of the following performance areas):

- (a) Visual Arts;
- (b) Music;
- (c) Dance; or
- (d) Theatre"

"(14) Physical and Health Education (2.0 units of credit from any of the following):

- (a) Health (0.5 units of credit);
- (b) Participation Skills (0.5 units of credit);
- (c) Fitness for Life (0.5 units of credit);
- (d) Individualized Lifetime Activities (0.5 units of credit); or
- (e) team sport/athletic participation (maximum of 1.0 units of credit with school approval)."

REASONING/JUSTIFICATION FOR REQUESTED WAIVER:

Minimum School Days:

The waiver is necessary to meet the mission and purpose of the school in order to allow UCAS to better align its schedule to that of Utah Valley University (UVU), and for its early college mission. Therefore, UCAS requests that the USBE allow UCAS a waiver of the 180-day requirement provided:

1. UCAS holds school for at least 990 instructional hours
2. UCAS meets a number of days at least equal to the number of instructional/test days in Utah Valley University's (UVU) fall and winter semesters.
3. UCAS continues to meet the academic expectations of its authorizer and meet the terms and conditions in its contractual agreement.

Waiver Request for Graduation Requirements:

To allow UCAS to better align its curriculum with its early college and STEM focused mission, UCAS requests that the USBE allow UCAS a waiver of Art and Physical and Health Education requirement provided:

1. UCAS continues to require 1.0 credits of PE/Health (waiver of 1.0 credit)
2. UCAS continues to require 1.0 credits of Arts (waiver of .5 credit)
3. UCAS requires students to complete an additional 1.0 credits above USBE requirements from a combination of any STEM course at either a high school or college level.

By waiving 1.0 PE and .5 Art credit students would not need to take these courses through either an approved online course or by giving up one of the college level courses. The waiver of 1.0 PE and .5 Art will allow our STEM focused students to gain more early college courses in their field.

THIS IS A NEW WAIVER

THIS IS A REQUEST TO RENEW AN EXISTING WAIVER

DATE WAIVER WAS FIRST GRANTED __January 3, 2018_____

ATTACH DATA TO SUPPORT THE REQUEST WHICH MAY INCLUDE:

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT DATA

COMMUNITY, STAFF, OR STUDENT SURVEY DATA

STUDENT ENROLLMENT DATA

FOR RENEWALS: DOCUMENTATION THAT OUTLINES HOW THE WAIVER WAS UTILIZED

ATTACH VERIFICATION OF THE FOLLOWING (AS APPLICABLE TO THE TYPE OF LEA)

LEA GOVERNING BOARD VOTE APPROVING REQUEST FOR WAIVER IN OPEN MEETING

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE BOARD OF THE SCHOOL'S AUTHORIZER (IF APPLICABLE)

ATTACH THE FOLLOWING

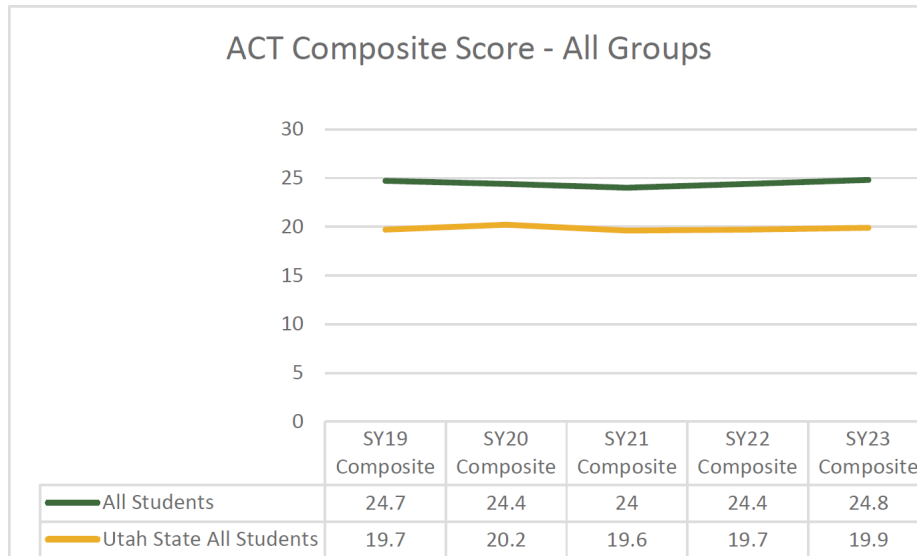
WRITTEN AGREEMENT TO BE PROPOSED TO THE BOARD INCLUDING:

- ✓ EFFECTIVE DATE OF WAIVER (*or of the renewal*)
- ✓ HOW LEA OR SCHOOL WILL PROVIDE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND ACCOUNTABILITY (*such as parent/student/staff survey*)
- ✓ ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE BOARD'S ABILITY TO REQUIRE ANNUAL UPDATES
- ✓ A SUNSET DATE FOR THE WAIVER (*three years or less*)

Student Achievement Data

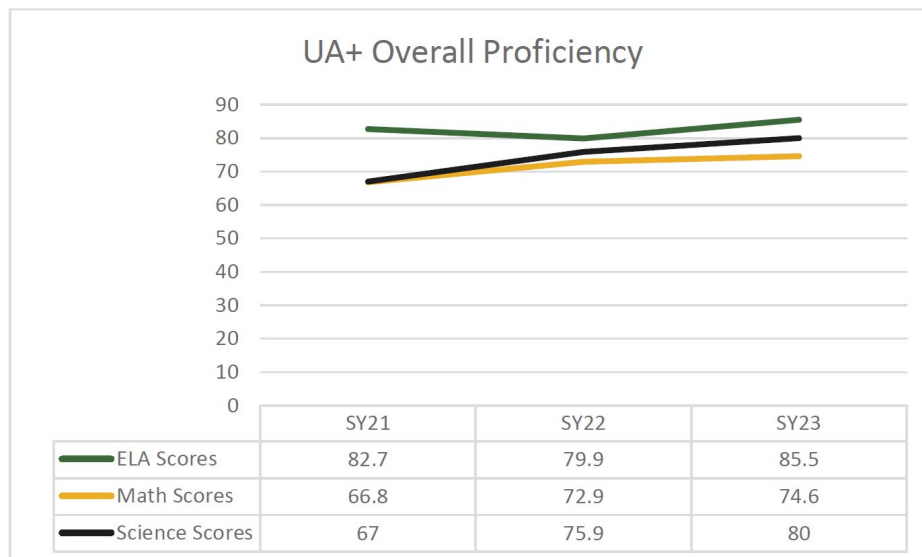
ACT for 11th Grade:

UCAS ACT Scores for 11th graders have stayed steady. The scores are well above the state averages:



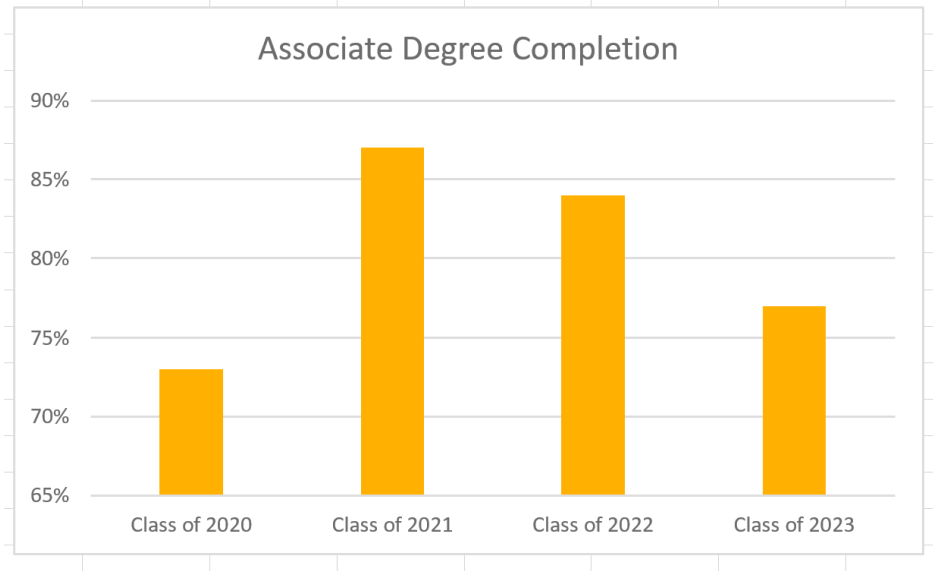
End of Level Testing for 9th and 10th Grades:

UCAS grade level testing for 9th and 10th graders have stayed mostly steady. The scores are well above the state averages:



Associate Degree:

Between 70% and 80% of UCAS seniors graduate with an Associate Degree from Utah Valley University. All seniors graduate with at least 40 university credits. UCAS has a high school graduation rate >98% each year.

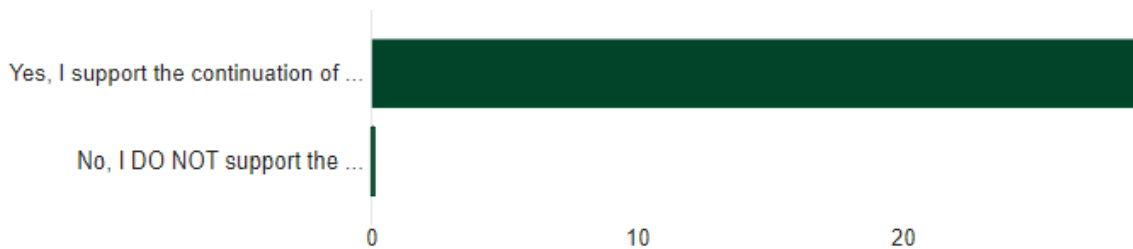


Parent and Staff Survey Data

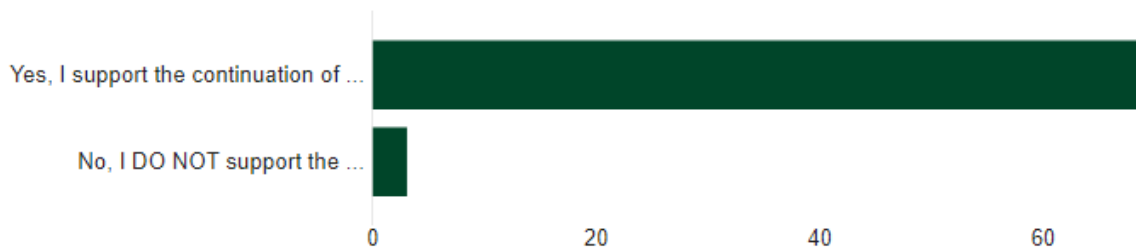
Waiver of School Days and Requirements

The waiver for UCAS school days does not change the number of hours a student must attend school; students must complete 990 hours during the school year. The waiver for the number of days would reduce the number of instructional days from 180 to approximately 174 each year. This is so the UCAS calendar more closely align to UVU's schedule.

Staff Responses



Parent Responses



Comments from Staff and Parents Regarding this Waiver

THIS WOULD BE SO HELPFUL if we didn't have to coordinate UVU, BYU, Centennial and UCAS calendars. And I would hope it would help the teachers at UCAS with the crazy split schedules.

UCAS's concurrent enrollment program requires autonomy re: our calendar to simply coincide with school breaks for finals/course start and end dates in order to align with courses at UVU/BYU/ where our students concurrently enroll.

I believe that there can be 15 absences excused per semester - this due to things that can come up.

I have a student who is heavily involved in STEM as well as proficient in Chinese. This waiver allows her to access more science credits as well as taking Chinese at UVU. She is planning to go into bioengineering and having more options to pursue more science credits allows her to explore and better prepare for this career. I highly value the waiver and encourage its continuation. I have had 2 other children attend UCAS with the same waiver. My oldest just graduated with a master's in marine biology from the University of Edinburgh and the next oldest is now applying his physics education in working at Texas Instruments. This waiver allowed them to pursue science careers and solidify their love of science.

I think the more closely aligned with UVU the school is, the better. It makes for a better experience for the students.

Our kids have such long days that it's nice to cut them some slack!

Most schools have less school days and go for more hours, it seems like a few days can be spared.

I really love the way that UCAS has more of a higher education schedule. I feel this is part of what helps prepare UCAS students for further education.

Less days at school seems like it would allow teachers more prep time and I appreciate the teachers so much!!

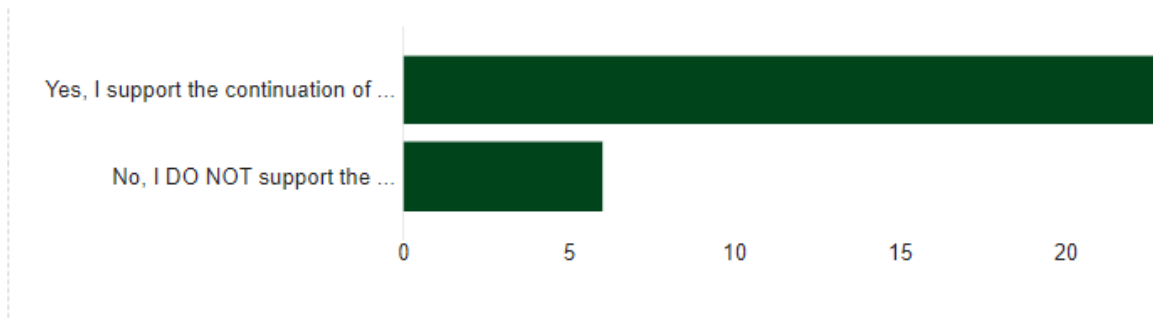
Yes, this is working well.

Same number of hours but fewer days also makes it easier for transportation for these kids, which is a bigger problem for UCAS than most public schools.

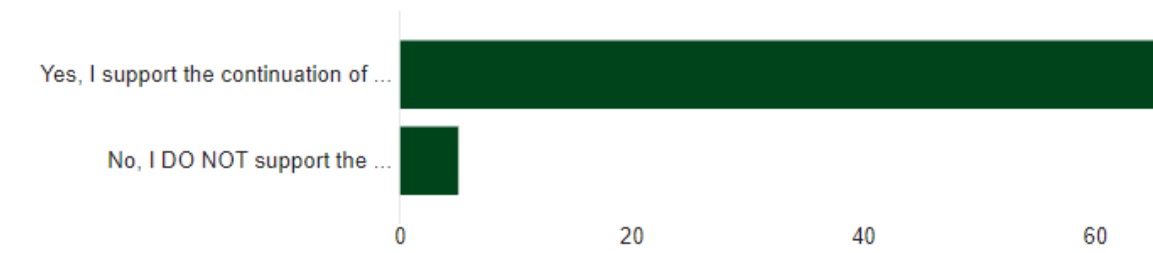
Graduation Requirements Waiver Description:

The waiver for UCAS graduation requirements allows students to take 1.0 credit of Health/PE instead of 2.0 credits of Health/PE. College courses in STEM subjects are used to replace the Health/PE credit. Expiration of this waiver would require your student to take more PE/Health while in high school and it may reduce the number of STEM classes or college credits your students can earn while attending UCAS.

Staff Responses



Parent Responses



Comments from Staff and Parents Regarding this Waiver:

- Kids need physical exercise. They are lazy enough as it is. PE should not be reduced.
- Uh. I've always thought the PE credits were useless. Let them take more STEM classes to help with Bachelor Degrees later.
- Its a great idea.
- It's why they are here!
- Physical activity is beneficial in all manners, especially for kids today.
- Students can take a summer or zero hour class as needed.
- It's important for them to be healthy and balanced!
- If possible, I would advocate to have a PE class taught at the Orem campus. I think is would be good for the juniors to interact together in the environment of a PE class. I think there are social skills that occur through that environment that are hard to be learned in other ways.
- I believe healthy physical activities can be achieved through home support.
- Yes, this is working well.
- The students need PE

Student Enrollment Data

UCAS currently has 535 student in grades 9 – 11. Our goal is to expand to 800 students over the next 5 years.

Cost Effectiveness Data

Minimum School Days: Having teachers available for 990 hours will continue to ensure quality instruction while the reduction in days will save facility and maintenance costs because the building will be occupied fewer than 180 total days. This cost savings, however, would be minimal.

Graduation Requirements: There is not a cost savings for substituting additional college credits for 1.0 PE and .5 Art credit. In fact, UCAS will pay UVU additional money for the extra concurrent enrollment classes. Although, not cost effective for UCAS, it is cost effective for students because they are able to gain additional college credits while in high school.

Proposed Calendar, Hours, and Schedule

In the calendar below, you will notice that UVU's fall semester starts on August 21. UCAS students would return to school as close to that date as possible while still allowing for 990 hours of instruction. In the Spring UVU ends classes on May 2. The proposed days waiver would allow UCAS students to end three weeks past their ending date instead of. This proposal requests a minimum of 168 days of in-person instruction to allow for flexibility of either remote or early college activities. It would also allow additional flexibility over the next three years should UVU adjust their schedule.

2024-2025

Date	Event or Holiday	August 2024	September 2024	October 2024
12-Aug	Faculty Return	Su M Tu W Th F Sa	Su M Tu W Th F Sa	Su M Tu W Th F Sa
14-Aug	Teacher PD*		1 2 3 4 5 6 7	
15-Aug	UCAS Classes Begin	4 5 6 7 8 9 10	0 9 10 11 12 13 14	5 7 8 9 10 11 12
20-Aug	Board Meeting	11 12 13 14 15 16 17	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	13 14 15 16 17 18 19
21-Aug	UVU Classes Begin	18 19 20 21 22 23 24	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	20 21 22 23 24 25 26
2-Sep	Labor Day	25 26 27 28 29 30 31	29 30	27 28 29 30 31
17-Sep	Board Meeting			
8-Oct	PTC (No UCAS Classes)			
11-Oct	Mid Semester	November 2024	December 2024	January 2025
15-Oct	Board Meeting	Su M Tu W Th F Sa	Su M Tu W Th F Sa	Su M Tu W Th F Sa
Oct 17 - 18	Fall Break		1 2 3 4 5 6 7	
19-Nov	Board Meeting	3 4 5 6 7 8 9	0 9 10 11 12 13 14	5 6 7 8 9 10 11
Nov 27 - 29	Thanksgiving Holiday	10 11 12 13 14 15 16	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	12 13 14 15 16 17 18
Dec 16 - 20	UVU Finals	17 18 19 20 21 22 23	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	19 20 21 22 23 24 25
17-Dec	Board Meeting	24 25 26 27 28 29 30	29 30 31	26 27 28 29 30 31
Dec 17 - 19	UCAS Finals			
20-Dec	UCAS Semester Ends/Early Out			
Dec 23 - Jan 3	Winter Break	February 2025	March 2025	April 2025
8-Jan	Faculty Return	Su M Tu W Th F Sa	Su M Tu W Th F Sa	Su M Tu W Th F Sa
6-Jan	UVU Classes Begin (Tentative)		1 2 3 4 5 6 7	
7-Jan	UCAS Classes Begin	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	6 7 8 9 10 11 12
20-Jan	Martin Luther King Holiday	9 10 11 12 13 14 15	9 10 11 12 13 14 15	13 14 15 16 17 18 19
21-Jan	Board Meeting	16 17 18 19 20 21 22	16 17 18 19 20 21 22	20 21 22 23 24 25 26
17-Feb	Presidents' Day	23 24 25 26 27 28	23 24 25 26 27 28 29	27 28 29 30
18-Feb	Board Meeting		30	
4-Mar	Parent Teacher Conferences			
8-Mar	Mid Semester	May 2025	June 2025	July 2025
Mar 10 - 14	Spring Break	Su M Tu W Th F Sa	Su M Tu W Th F Sa	Su M Tu W Th F Sa
10-Mar	ACT Assessment (Tentative)		1 2 3 4 5 6 7	
18-Mar	Board Meeting	4 5 6 7 8 9 10	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	5 7 8 9 10 11 12
3-Apr	Teacher PD*	11 12 13 14 15 16 17	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	13 14 15 16 17 18 19
4-Apr	No School	18 19 20 21 22 23 24	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	20 21 22 23 24 25 26
15-Apr	Board Meeting	25 26 27 28 29 30 31	29 30	27 28 29 30 31
23-Apr	UVU Interim Day, UCAS Classes Held			
Apr 24 - 30	UVU Finals			
2-May	UVU Graduation*			
May 19 - 21	UCAS Finals			
20-May	Board Meeting			
22-May	Last Day UCAS Classes/ 5 day			
23-May	UCAS Graduation			
26-May	Memorial Day			
17-Jun	Board Meeting			

*Ref: R277 419 4, 53F 2 102

Sample Hours Calculation

	Regular Day	PD Substitute Days (UCA §53F-2-102)	Finals Week	Talent Assembly	Act Day	Final Activity Day
Hours Per Day	5:41	5:41	6:00	2:30	4:00	3:00
Number of days per year	165.00	3.00	6.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Total Hours per year	937.75	17.05	36.00	2.50	4.00	3.00
First Semester	Number of Days	Number of Hours				
Regular Days	82.00	466.03				
PD Substitute Days (UCA §53F-2-102)	1.00	5.68				
Finals Week	3.00	18.00				
Talent Assembly	1.00	2.50		Total Time	Difference	
Parent Conferences	1.00	0.00		1000.30	10.30	
Total First Semester		492.22				
Second Semester	Number of Days	Number of Hours				
Regular Days	83.00	471.72				
PD Substitute Days (UCA §53F-2-102)	2.00	11.37				
ACT Day	1.00	4.00				
Finals Week	3.00	18.00				
Yearbook Day	1.00	3.00				
Parent Conferences	1.00	0.00				
Total Second semester		508.08				
Total School Year		1000.30	10.30			

Example of Student Schedule

9th Grade Semester 1	UCAS Credit	UVU credit	9th Grade Semester 2	UCAS credit	UVU credit
Math 1H	0.5		Math 1H	0.5	
English 9	0.5		English 9	0.5	
Social Studies (Geography)	0.5		Social Studies (World History)	0.5	
Science	0.5		Science	1.0	
Art CE	1.0	3.0	Digital Lit., possibly CE	0.5	
Elective	0.5		Leadership 1 CE	1.0	3.0
Total	3.5	3.0	Total	4.0	3.0
			Year Grand Total	7.5	6.0
10th Grade Semester 1	UCAS Credit	UVU credit	10th Grade Semester 2	UCAS credit	UVU credit
Math 2H	0.5		Math 2H	0.5	
English 10	0.5		English 10	0.5	
Social Studies CE	1.0	3.0	Leadership/ACT CE	1.0	3.0
Science CE	0.5		Science CE	0.5	3.0
PE	0.5		Health	0.5	
Elective	0.5		Elective	0.5	
Total	3.5	3.0	Total	3.5	6.0
			Year Grand Total	6.0	9.0
11th Grade Semester 1	UCAS Credit	UVU credit	11th Grade Semester 2	UCAS credit	UVU credit
Math 3H	1.0		Math 1050 CE	1.25	4.0
English 11	0.5		English 11	0.5	
Financial Literacy	1.0	3.0	Communications CE	1.0	3.0
US Government CE	1.0	3.0	Student Success 1000	1.0	3.0
Science CE w/ Lab	0.5		Science CE w/ Lab	0.75	4.0
Elective	0.5		Elective	0.5	
Total	4.5	6.0	Total	5.0	14.0
			Year Grand Total	9.5	20.0
12th Grade Semester 1	UCAS credit	UVU credit	12th Grade Semester 2	UCAS credit	UVU credit
UVU STEM Elective	1.0	3.0	UVU STEM Elective	1.0	3.0
English 1010	1.0	3.0	English 2010	1.0	3.0
Coll & Car. Readiness CE	0.5		Coll & Car. Readiness CE	0.5	3.0
UVU Science	1.0	3.0	Phil 205G	1.0	3.0
UVU Elective	1.0	3.0	UVU Elective	1.0	3.0
Total	4.5	12.0	Total	4.5	15.0
			Year Grand Total	9.0	27.0
			High School Grand Total	32*	62.0 **

1. *24.0 high school credits are required by the USBE for high school graduation.
2. **60.0 College credits are required by UVU for an associate degree.

Utilization of Prior Waiver

Number of School Days

UCAS has benefited from a school days waiver for the past 6 years. Our students have increased the number of credits they are able to earn over those years. Students have refined their college and career goals and we are able to support them by providing academic advice that is specific to their college major. Our current goal is to help students reduce the number of unnecessary credits and focus on the classes that are needed for their future goals.

School Year	Number of Hours Waived Based on a Full, Regular School Day
2020 - 2021	17.05
2021 - 2022	28.42
2022 - 2023	22.73
2023 - 2024	21.43

Art and PE Credit Waiver

UCAS has had an Art and PE credit waiver for the past 6 years. The waiver data for the classes of '21 through '24 are similar to the prior years of our waiver.

Art Waiver

Graduating Class - Class Size	Number of Students Who Utilized Waiver	Percentage of Graduated Class Who Utilized Waiver
2021 – 132	35	13%
2022 – 147	55	19%
2023 – 140	55	20%
2024 – 158	95	30%

PE Waiver

Graduating Class - Class Size	Total Number of PE/Health Credits Req'd Without Waiver	Number of Credits Waived	Percentage of Health/PE Credits Waived
2021 – 132	264	43.5	16%
2022 – 147	294	52.5	18%
2023 – 140	280	53	19%
2024 – 158	316	12.75	4%

UCAS Board of Trustees Approval of Waiver

See item 7 below:

UCAS Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, November 28th, 2023 4pm
2121 N. 550 West, Provo, Utah 84604
UCAS Building

4:01

Attending Electronically: Renee Borns; Karen Carter; Barbara Heftel; Clark Baron; David Harris; Abraham Teng

Attending:

Not Attending: Julie King;

UCAS Staff Attending: Spencer Wilde

UCAS Staff Attending Electronically: Tara Merryweather; Jennilyn Derbidge; Darla Wenger

1. Preliminary Activities
 - a. Abraham Teng led the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - b. There was no public input.
 - c. Jennilyn Derbidge gave a report on current events and activities. Student recruiting season has begun. We are inviting counselors from other schools to come have lunch and learn about UCAS. We are collaborating on a board rule change through the UAPCS that would allow us to obtain directory information from district schools. Target River and Frogtummy support each other and are helping us with our marketing campaigns. We will attend recruiting events at other schools like Challenger and at Thanksgiving Point. Our 9th and 10th grade students had a competition on who had the highest percentage of assignments turned in with the winners receiving movie tickets as a prize. Attrition rates are lower this year, we have lost 16 students this year versus the 70 we lost last year. The board is invited to the Christmas Faculty party on the 4th of December.
2. Approval of minutes for the October board meeting was requested by Tara Merryweather.

Clark Baron requested that the duration of Isom's license being for one year be stated in the minutes. There was also the request to break out the separate topics and motions under "other items". Clark Baron made the motion to approve as corrected, 2nd by Karen Carter, approved by all.
3. Tara Merryweather requested approval of expenditures and financial reports for October.

The final draw for the Charter Replication grant was received in October for \$90,792.00, this grant is fully exhausted. In the expenditure categories, the business line is high. There was an issue with Target River not invoicing the school during the FY23 school year for services. We are paying those invoices in this current year along with this years invoices. We will need to amend our budget to cover these expenses. Clark Baron made the motion to approve, 2nd by Barbie Heftel, approved by all.

4. Review and Approval of Policy BB Board Appointment was requested by Jennilyn Derbidge. The changes to this policy include the addition of alternate members. Karen Carter would like this to only apply if the alternate is required to complete a quorum. There was discussion on language needed. The board would like corrections made to the policy and for the policy to be put back on the agenda for the January board meeting.
5. Jennilyn Derbidge presented Policy CF Student Enrollment & Lottery for review and approval. The changes would add additional articulation agreements for high performing charter schools. Terminology corrections were requested. Abraham Teng made the motion to approve with corrections, 2nd by Karen Carter, approved by all.
6. Review and approval of Policy JI School Wellness Policy was requested by Jennilyn Derbidge. There were minor clarification changes made to clean up redundancy and to add required language about suicide prevention. Karen Carter made the motion to approve, 2nd by Abraham Teng, approved by all.
7. Jennilyn Derbidge presented the SY24 USCSB Waiver Request for review and approval. This is a request to renew the waiver of half a credit of art and one credit of physical/health which opens our students up to taking additional STEM classes. 35% of our students take advantage of this waiver, usually they are students who know which programs that they want to go into such as computer science or health science classes. This is the same waiver that we have had in place for several years. Clark Baron made the motion to approve, 2nd by Karen Carter, approved by all.
8. The 2024/2025 Academic Calendar was presented by Jennilyn Derbidge for approval. The proposed calendars were presented to a teacher committee for selection. The calendar presented is the one that the teachers selected. David Harris made the motion to approve, 2nd by Barbie Heftel, approved by all.
9. There will not be a December board meeting, the next meeting will be January 16, 2024 at 4 pm. David Harris made the motion to cancel the December meeting, 2nd by Karen Carter, approved by all.
10. Jennilyn Derbidge wrote a safety grant that would allow for the reconfiguration of the front office in Provo and to install new digital key locks for the classrooms.
11. We are looking for a student connected board member for the new year, we have two possibilities but are looking for additional nominees for the election.
12. Thank you to David Harris for his service to the board, we appreciate your support, wisdom, and time.

No executive session needed.

Abraham Teng made the motion to adjourn.

5:00

Recommendation from Utah State Charter School Board



Dr. W. Bryan Bowles
State Charter School Board
250 E. 500 S.
Salt Lake City, UT 84114
December 15, 2023

Dr. Sydnee Dickson
State Board of Education
250 E. 500 S.
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Dear Superintendent Dickson,

Utah Academy of Sciences presented a waiver recommendation request to the State Charter School Board on December 14, 2023. Currently, the LEA is exempted from the requirements of R277-419-5 and R277-700, specifically, the requirements that an LEA conduct school for a minimum of 180 school days in a school year is waived for the purpose of implementing a yearly school schedule which coincides with that of Utah Valley University, and students may earn a minimum of 1 credit of PE/Health and 1 credit of Arts to qualify for a high school diploma.

Due to the school's high academic performance and excellent standing with its authorizer, we are proud to fully recommend the Utah State Board of Education grant this continued waiver request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W Bryan Bowles".

Dr. W. Bryan Bowles
Board Chair
State Charter School Board