



WINTER SPORTS SCHOOL

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July 28, 2023

Utah State Charter School Board of Trustees
250 East 500 South
PO Box 144200
Salt Lake City, UT 84112-4200

Dear USCSB Trustees,

On behalf of the faculty, staff, students, families and the Trustees of the Winter Sports School in Park City, I write to request a waiver recommendation letter from the USCSB in support of our school's application for a waiver of USBE Board Rule [R277-419-4](#) - Minimum School Days Requirement. Per [UAC R277-121](#), we intend to submit a request for waiver to the USBE and require a waiver recommendation from you, as our authorizer to support our application.

In a special open meeting of the Winter Sports School Board of Trustees on July 27, 2023 9:00 am, the WSS trustees voted unanimously to approve our intent to file an application of request with USBE for waiver of R277-419-4 Minimum School Days requirement. The draft minutes of this meeting are linked here:

[W DRAFT Minutes 2023 07 27 SPECIAL BOT Mtg.docx](#) .

Winter Sports School has a 30 year history of success supporting student-athletes in their pursuit of athletic and academic excellence, the last ten years of which WSS has operated as a public charter school with a non-traditional calendar of 144 days between April and November each year. In that time, our students have maintained above average achievement relative to state and national averages, have maintained positive attendance rates in line with state expectations, have achieved ambitious post-secondary goals both athletic and academic, and have graduated at rates that consistently exceed state averages, as evidenced by the following data:

WSS Graduation Rates since 2014-2015 (our first year as a public charter school):

Graduation Cohort	WSS Graduation Rate	State Average
2015	95%	83%
2016	95%	85%
2017	95%	86%
2018	96%	87%
2019	97%	87%
2020	97%	88%
2021	100%	88%
2022	97%	88%
2023	100%	not available

Source: <https://www.schools.utah.gov/file/05798495-2914-42b4-ab3a-a8fad085edf0>

WSS Math Competency Graduation Rates since 2018*

- 2018: **94%**
- 2019: **97%**
- 2020: **97%**
- 2021: **96%**
- 2022: **94%**

*reflects the % of graduates meeting standards set forth in [R277-700-9 - College and Career Readiness Mathematics Competency](#). In each year, **100% of the WSS graduates whose post-secondary plans include 4-year college/university have graduated with the Math Competency standard achieved.**

WSS College Readiness Proficiency Rates since 2018*

School Year	WSS Proficiency Rate	State Proficiency
2018	83%	62%
2019	92%	62%
2020	88%	65%
2021	74% **	61%
2022	90%	Not available

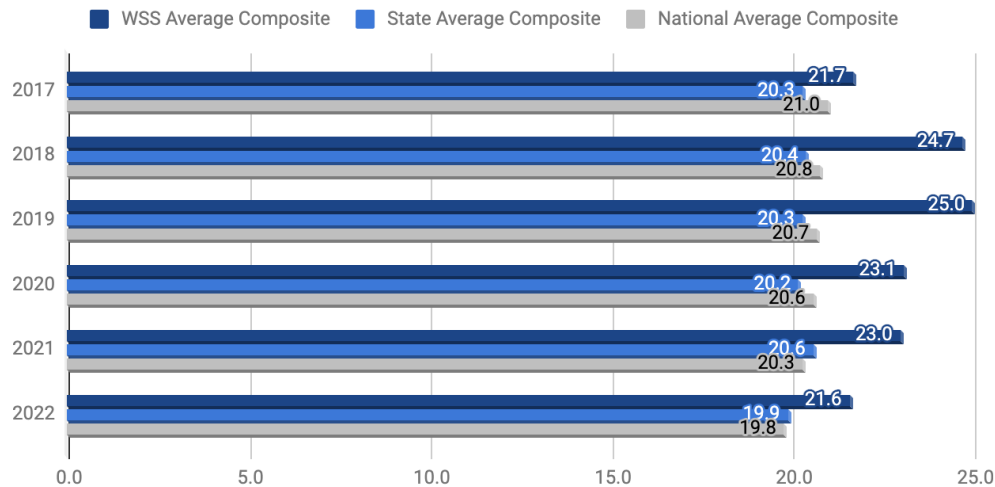
*based on 11th grade ACT statewide testing composite score of 18+; WSS sample size: 20-30 tested annually

** Fall of 2020 Testing Session

Source: <https://www.schools.utah.gov/data/reports?mid=1424&tid=0>

WSS Average Composite ACT Scores by Graduation Cohort *

ACT Composite Scores 2017-2022



*based on highest ACT composite score earned by graduation

Source: <https://www.schools.utah.gov/data/reports?mid=1424&tid=0>

WSS Attendance Rates since 2018

School Year	WSS Attendance Rate	State Average
2018	95%	95%
2019	94%	94%
2020	96%	96%
2021	95%	93%
2022	94%	92%

Source: <https://www.schools.utah.gov/data/reports?mid=1424&tid=4>

WSS College Admissions Acceptances since 2018*

Babson College

Bard College

Bates College

Boston College

Bowdoin College

Brandeis University

Cal Berkeley

Cal Poly

Clarkson University

Colby College

Colorado School of Mines

Dartmouth College

Denver University

Georgia Tech University

Hobart & William Smith Colleges

Lewis & Clark College

Loyola Marymount University

McGill University

Middlebury College

Montana State University

New York University,

Oregon State University,

Parsons School of Design | The

New School

Ringling College of Art &

Design

Rocky Mountain College

St. Lawrence University

Sierra Nevada College

Skidmore College

Stanford University

UCLA

University of Colorado

University of Oregon

University of Utah Honors.

Seton Hall University

University of Vermont

University of Washington

Westminster University

Whitman College

Williams College

*reflects list of colleges and universities into which WSS graduates have been admitted; Those in **bold** reflect college & universities at which WSS graduates have matriculated since 2018

WSS Athletic Accolades

- As of June 2023, 27 WSS current students and alumni graduates (since 2015) are on National Team rosters in two countries.
- WSS celebrates 24 Winter Olympians who have earned 15 Olympic medals in 48 Olympic Games appearances.
- WSS alumni have earned 11 Overall World Cup titles, 82 Individual World Cup titles, 33 World Championship medals, and hundreds of World Cup podiums..
- Notable graduates include Olympians Ted Ligety, Julia Mancuso, Steve Holcomb, Alex Hall, Colby Stevenson, Sarah Hendrickson, Joss Christensen, Andrew Weibrecht, Ellie Ochowitz, Resi Steigler, Bryan Fletcher, Anders Johnson, Izzy Atkin, Zoe Atkin, Nick Page, Cole McDonald, Ben Loomis, Jared Shumate, and Stephen Schumann.

We sincerely appreciate the USCSB's consideration of our request for support and welcome any questions or request for clarification needed to make a determination in this case.

Kind Regards,



Tess Miner-Farra, Head of School

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CC: Tim Gaylord, President WSS Board of Trustees | tgaylord@wintersportsschool.org