

June 6, 2025

Utah State Board of Education

The meeting was conducted in a hybrid format.

Members Present: Cindy Davis, Matt Hyman, Christina Boggess, and Randy Boothe

Committee Staff: Scott Jones, Deborah Jacobson, and Cammy Wilcox

Others Present: Ben Rasmussen, Jared Felt, Aaron Brough, Paula Plant, Marcus Chen, Todd Hauber, Royce Van Tassell, Sam Urie, Kira Bennett, Rhett Larsen, Rebecca Nielsen, Laura Wilson, Tami Gear, Nick Harris, Blake Pope, Katrina Brinkley, Shauntelle Cota, Lenard Brooks, Mark Waddoups, Michelle Iwasaki, Dale Frost, Ashley Pistello, and Julie Lundell

Committee Chair Davis called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Public Comment

There were no requests for public comment.

USB E Staff Highlights:

- Kira Bennett, School Children's Trust Compliance Specialist
- Marcus Chen, School Children's Trust Training Specialist

6.2 R277-445, Classifying Small Schools as Necessarily Existent (Amendment)

Committee Discussion: [HB 396](#), Small School District Scale of Operations Formula, significantly changed the requirements for calculating and distributing Necessarily Existing Small School (NESS) funding to LEAs. The proposed rule changes reflect the changes to legislation, including standardizing the new formula and removing any restrictions on the NESS funding spending at the LEA level.

Staff presented R277-445, Classifying Small Schools as Necessarily Existent, Draft 1, for consideration and approval.

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 3](#); [53E-3-401\(4\)](#); [53F-2-304\(1\)](#)

Committee Action:

Member Hymas Motion:

That the Committee amend R277-445 by striking the current title and replacing with "Funding for Necessarily Existent Small Schools"

The motion passed unanimously.

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Member Boggess Motion:

That the Committee approves R277-445, Classifying Small Schools as Necessarily Existent, Draft 2, on first reading and forward to the Board for approval on second and final reading.

The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD:

That the Board approve R277-445, Classifying Small Schools as Necessarily Existent, Draft 2, on second and final reading.

6.3 R277-471, School Construction Oversight, Inspections, Training and Reporting (Incorporated Document)

Committee Discussion: Staff presented R277-471 incorporated document "School Construction Resource Manual", Draft 1, for consideration and approval.

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 3](#); [53E-3-401\(3\)](#); [53E-3-706](#); [53E-3-707](#); [10-9a-305](#); [53F-2-202\(4\)\(d\)](#)

Committee Action:**Member Boggess Motion:**

That the Committee amend R277-471 incorporated document "School Construction Resource Manual" by striking "in" and replacing it with "at or near" on the top of page 52.

"One AED is required to be located ~~in~~ at or near the main office(s), and additional AEDs are required..."

The motion passed unanimously.

Member Davis Motion:

That the Committee approves R277-471 incorporated document "School Construction Resource Manual", as amended, on first reading and forward to the Board for approval on second and final reading.

The motion passed 3-1 with Members Davis, Hymas, and Boothe in favor and Member Boggess opposed.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD:

That the Board approve R277-471 incorporated document "School Construction Resource Manual", Draft 2, on second and final reading.

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6.4 R277-471, School Construction Oversight, Inspections, Training and Reporting (Amendment)

Committee Discussion: Staff presented R277-471, School Construction Oversight, Inspections, Training and Reporting, Draft 1, for consideration and approval.

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 3](#); [53E-3-401\(3\)](#); [53E-3-706](#); [53E-3-707](#); [10-9a-305](#); [53F-2-202\(4\)\(d\)](#)

Committee Action:**Member Boggess Motion:**

That the Committee amend language by striking “in” and replacing it with “at or near” on line 128.

“(a) One AED shall be located ~~in~~ at or near the main office, and additional...”

The motion passed unanimously.

Member Davis Motion:

That the Committee approves R277-471, School Construction Oversight, Inspections, Training and Reporting, Draft 1, as amended, on first reading and forward to the Board for approval on second and final reading.

The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD:

That the Board approve R277-471, School Construction Oversight, Inspections, Training and Reporting, Draft 2, on second and final reading.

6.5 Weber School District Statewide Online Education Provider Application

Committee Discussion: Weber School District is requesting Board approval to be a SOEP provider beginning August 2025. This video highlights the purpose of the small school funding changes being proposed [Leadership for Board.mp4](#)

Committee Action:**Member Boothe Motion:**

The Committee recommends that the Board approve Weber School District's 'Innovation Online 7-12' as a statewide online education provider.

The motion passed unanimously.

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MOTION FOR THE BOARD:

That the Board approve Weber School District's 'Innovation Online 7-12' as a statewide online education provider.

6.6 R277-726, Statewide Online Education Program (SOEP) (Amendment)

Committee Discussion: Staff recommends amending R277-726 to reflect changes made in the legislative session, including [HB246](#) and [SB137](#).

Staff presented R277-726, Statewide Online Education Program, Draft 3, for consideration and approval.

The Finance committee approved Draft 1 in April. Following extensive review, staff recommended major changes, including a rewrite of the requirements for funding small schools in the rule. Draft 3 incorporates these edits.

[Statewide Online Education Program Video](#)

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 3](#); [53F-4-510](#); [53F-4-514](#); [53E-3-401](#)

Committee Action:**Member Boothe Motion:**

That the Committee approves R277 -726, Statewide Online Education Program (SOEP), Draft 3, on first reading and forward to the Board for approval on second and final reading.

The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD:

That the Board approve R277-726, Statewide Online Education Program (SOEP), Draft 3, on second and final reading.

6.7 ASPIRE Student Information System Planning

Committee Discussion: USBE staff presented several potential courses of action related to ASPIRE at the May 2, 2025, Finance Committee meeting. The committee directed staff to bring information back to the June Finance Committee outlining costs associated with:

- Getting ASPIRE to appropriate levels to interface and interoperate with EdFi Standards, integrating with other vendors, updating antiquated features, building new features, new board rule and legislative requirements, and
- Moving LEAs using APRE to other vendors, and

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- Projected cost of maintaining:
 - o ASPIRE
 - o Other vendors

Aspire is the State of Utah's Student Information System (SIS). Local Education Agencies (LEAs) have the option to use Aspire as their SIS. The Utah State Board of Education (USB) maintains a team of programmers and technical support staff to develop and maintain the Aspire application. Aspire uses a Schools Interoperability Framework (SIF) that serves as a "translator" for the data submitted to USB by all LEAs to interface with the Utah eTranscript and Record Exchange (UTREx) data collection. Data submitted is used for federal, state, and local government reporting and for funding purposes.

Aspire offers Academic Intervention Tracking, Assessment Imports, Attendance Tracking, Behavior Tracking, College and Career Tracking, Enrollment, Fees Module, Food Service, Food Service Data Importing from the Department of Workforce Services, Parent/Guardian Notifications of Student Academic Summaries, Scheduling, Teacher Grade Books, UTREx SIF Daily Submissions, and Interface with Canvas.

Committee Action:**Member Hymas Motion:**

The Committee recommends that the Board directs staff to report the costs of getting ASPIRE to appropriate levels to interface and interoperate with USIMS to the 508 Advisory Council to develop recommendations for the legislative Public Education Appropriations Committee for some use of the \$10MM one-time funds for LEA SIS upgrades.

The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD:

That the Board directs staff to report the costs of getting ASPIRE to appropriate levels to interface and interoperate with USIMS to the 508 Advisory Council to develop recommendations for the legislative Public Education Appropriations Committee for use of some of the \$10MM one-time funds for LEA SIS upgrades.

6.8 Requests for Funding and/or Budget Recommendations in Accordance with the Budgetary Procedures Act

Committee Discussion: The Budgetary Procedures Act requires:

(3)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), for the purpose of preparing and reporting the proposed budget, the governor: (i) shall require the proper state officials, including all public and higher education officials, all heads of executive and administrative departments and state institutions, bureaus,

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boards, commissions, and agencies expending or supervising the expenditure of the state money, and all institutions applying for state money and appropriations; (ii) may require the persons and entities subject to Subsection (3)(a)(i) to provide other information under these guidelines and at times as the governor may direct, which may include a requirement for program productivity and performance measures, where appropriate, with emphasis on outcome indicators; and (iii) may require representatives of public and higher education, state departments and institutions, and other institutions or individuals applying for state appropriations to attend budget meetings. (b) Subsections (3)(a)(ii) and (iii) do not apply to the judicial department or the legislative department.

The Finance Committee of the Utah State Board of Education starts the process of identifying funding requirements during the May meeting and makes recommendations to the board for their consideration.

Committee Action:**Member Davis Motion:**

The Committee recommends that the Board directs staff to prepare funding requests for the continuation of the Master Pilot program to continue at its present levels.

The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD:

That the Board directs staff to prepare funding requests for the continuation of the Master Pilot program to continue at its present levels.

6.9 Charter School Revolving Loan Promissory Note Amendment - American Principles Academy

Committee Discussion: American Principles Academy/Cedar Charter Holders DBA APA-Cedar has transferred their charter agreement to Utah Charter Academies/American Preparatory Academy as of 7/1/2025. APA-Cedar has an existing Charter School Revolving Loan. The existing promissory note with USBE does not have a transfer provision. Staff recommends transferring the Charter School Revolving Loan to Utah Charter Academies/American Preparatory Academy and amending the promissory note accordingly.

Committee Action:**Member Boothe Motion:**

The Committee recommends that the Board approve the transfer of the

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Charter School Revolving loan and the amended promissory note.

The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD:

That the Board approve the transfer of the Charter School Revolving loan and the amended promissory note.

6.10 R277-495, Electronic Devices in Public Schools (Amendment)

Committee Discussion: Staff is proposing changes to this rule due to findings of a Legislative audit of the OpenEd program. The proposed changes will provide more clarity for students who receive technology items from a contracted Education Services Provider.

Staff presented R277-495, Electronic Devices in Public Schools, Draft 1, for consideration and approval.

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 3](#); [53E-3-401\(4\)](#); [53G-8-202\(2\)\(c\)\(i\)](#)

Committee Action:

Member Hymas Motion:

That the Committee approves R277-495, Electronic Devices in Public Schools, Draft 1, on first reading and forward to the Board for approval on second and final reading.

The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD:

That the Board approve R277-495, Electronic Devices in Public Schools, Draft 1, on second and final reading.

6.11 R277-400, School Facility Emergency and Safety (Amendment)

Committee Discussion: Staff is proposing changes to this rule to come into alignment with recent legislative changes to school safety. New definitions and training requirements as well as updates to those involved in school safety decision making are included as amendments to this rule.

Staff presented R277-400, School Facility Emergency and Safety, Draft 1, for consideration and approval.

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Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 3](#); [53E-3-401](#)(4); [53G-4-402](#)(1)(b)

Committee Action:**Member Boggess Motion:**

That the Committee amend R277-400 by striking lines 21 and 25.

The motion passed unanimously.

Member Hymas Motion:

That the Committee approves R277-400, School Facility Emergency and Safety, Draft 1, as amended, on first reading and forward to the Board for approval on second and final reading.

The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD:

That the Board approve R277-400, School Facility Emergency and Safety, Draft 2, on second and final reading.

6.12 School Children's Trust Quarterly Report – Annual Compliance Report

Committee Discussion: Staff presented the School Children's Trust June Quarterly Report which focused on the Annual Compliance Reviews of the School LAND Trust Program and council requirements.

6.13 Recognition of Progress, Achievements, or Improvements

Committee members were encouraged to review the PMR and summaries for USIMS and Utah Grants. There were no in-depth presentations.

6.13.1 INFORMATION: Program Monthly Report (PMR) on USIMS

Committee Information: The Utah Schools Information Management System (USIMS) is an ongoing project that will modernize USBE's legacy data systems and enable real-time access to and secure movement of data to support effective decision-making at all levels of the education system. Current code requires the Utah Schools Information System is capable of meeting requirements by July 1, 2024.

6.13.2 INFORMATION: Program Monthly Report (PMR) on Utah Grants

Committee Information: Utah Grants is the Electronic Grants Management System utilized by the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) for managing the

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full life cycle of grant funding. Utah Grants is used by USBE staff as well as LEAs and CBO partners for managing grant applications, awards, payments and monitoring activities. The USBE works closely with system developers to continue to meet the expanding needs of the agency, while maintaining proper safeguards in the use and distribution of grant funds. The monthly Project Management Report (PMR) is provided by the Grants Management team to account for project activities and priorities.

6.14 Charter Local Levy Revisions

Committee Discussion: This item was postponed until the August Finance Committee meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m.