



LEGISLATURE

MINUTES

EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE

Wednesday, June 18, 2025 | 8:30 a.m. | American Preparatory Academy, Draper 1, 12894 S Pony Express Rd, Suite 400, Draper, Utah, 84020

Members Present:

Sen. John D. Johnson, Chair
Rep. Candice B. Pierucci, Chair
Sen. Heidi Balderree
Sen. Lincoln Fillmore
Sen. Kathleen A. Riebe
Rep. Tiara Auxier
Rep. Ariel Defay
Rep. Joseph Elison
Rep. Sahara Hayes
Rep. Karianne Lisonbee
Rep. Tracy J. Miller
Rep. Carol S. Moss
Rep. Clinton D. Okerlund

Rep. Karen M. Peterson
Rep. Val L. Peterson
Rep. Douglas Welton

Members Absent:

Sen. Chris H. Wilson
Rep. Michael L. Kohler

Staff Present:

Finn Andrew Rose, Policy Analyst
Micah Ann Wixom, Policy Analyst
Mike Curtis, Managing Associate General Counsel
Tyler Keetch, Associate General Counsel
Jeff Van Hulten, Associate General Counsel
Amy Hawkes, Administrative Assistant

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

Chair Pierucci called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

1. Committee Business

MOTION: Rep. Auxier moved to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2025, meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 6.

Yeas - 12

Rep. T. Auxier
Sen. H. Balderree
Rep. A. Defay
Rep. J. Elison
Rep. S. Hayes
Sen. J. Johnson
Rep. T. Miller
Rep. C. Moss
Rep. C. Okerlund
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. C. Pierucci
Rep. D. Welton

Nays - 0

Absent - 6

Sen. L. Fillmore
Rep. M. Kohler
Rep. K. Lisonbee
Rep. K. Peterson
Sen. K. Riebe
Sen. C. Wilson

2. Legislative Audit: Student Performance on Statewide Tests

[2 - AUDIT: A Performance Audit of Student Performance on Statewide Tests: The Importance of Focusing on Underperforming Student Groups \(Office of the Legislative Auditor General \(OLAG\)\)](#)

[2 - PRESENTATION: Student Performance on Statewide Tests: The Importance of Focusing on Underperforming Student Groups \(OLAG\)](#)

Leah Blevins, Audit Manager, and Nicole Luscher, Performance Audit Supervisor, Office of the Legislative Auditor General (OLAG), shared findings from the Student Performance on Statewide Tests legislative audit, shared recommendations based on the findings, and answered questions from the committee.

2 - AUDIT: A Performance Audit of Student Performance on Statewide Tests: The Importance of Focusing on Underperforming Student Groups (Office of the Legislative Auditor General (OLAG))

2 - PRESENTATION: Student Performance on Statewide Tests: The Importance of Focusing on Underperforming Student Groups (OLAG)

Matt Hymas, Chair, and Leah Voorhies, Deputy Superintendent of Student Achievement, Utah State Board of Education (USBE), responded to the audit.

3. Public Education: New State Superintendent Molly Hart

Molly Hart, State Superintendent, USBE, shared a vision and goals for the state's public education system.

4. Public Education: Charter School Overview

[4 - Charter School Enrollment 2004-2025 \(USBE\)](#)

[4 - Charter School Enrollment 2019-2025 \(USBE\)](#)

[4 - Charter School Funding in Utah \(Utah State Board of Education \(USBE\)\)](#)

Scott Jones, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, USBE, gave an overview of how charter schools are funded.

[4 - Charter School Overview \(State Charter School Board \(SCSB\)\)](#)

[4 - SCSB Handout](#)

Dr. Stephanie Speicher, Board Chair, State Charter School Board (SCSB), thanked the committee for the time given for the SCSB to present.

Susan Pulsipher, Board Member, SCSB, went through the mission, vision, and goals of the SCSB and answered committee questions.

[4 - Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\) Between the Utah State Board of Education and the State Charter School Board](#)

Dr. Paul Kremer, Executive Director, SCSB, talked about the Memorandum of Understanding between the SCSB and the USBE and answered committee questions.

[4 - Charter School Overview \(Utah State Charter School Board \(USCSB\)\)](#)

Clint Biesinger, Board Member, SCSB, talked about financing and the approval process for charter schools and answered committee questions.

[4 - Utah Association of Public Charter Schools Handout](#)

Royce Van Tassel, Executive Director, Utah Association of Public Charter Schools, compared Utah charter school processes to other state's charter school processes.

[4 - American Preparatory Academy Overview \(American Preparatory Academy \(APA\)\)](#)

[4 - American Preparatory Academy Handout \(APA\)](#)

Carolyn Sharette, Superintendent, American Preparatory Academy (APA), gave an overview of the APA and answered committee questions.

5. Other Items/Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Hayes moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 15 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 15

Rep. T. Auxier
Sen. H. Balderree
Rep. A. Defay
Rep. J. Elison
Sen. L. Fillmore
Rep. S. Hayes
Sen. J. Johnson
Rep. T. Miller
Rep. C. Moss
Rep. C. Okerlund
Rep. K. Peterson
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. C. Pierucci
Sen. K. Riebe
Rep. D. Welton

Nays - 0Absent - 3

Rep. M. Kohler
Rep. K. Lisonbee
Sen. C. Wilson

Chair Pierucci adjourned the meeting at 10:43 a.m.