

## UTAH SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND

### Advisory Council Agenda October 23, 2025 Openshaw Education Center

#### GENERAL SESSION AGENDA

(Tab 1)

4:30 p.m.

1. Welcome


4:30 – 4:45 p.m.

2. Public Comments

#### ACTION ITEMS

4:45 – 4:50 p.m.


3. CONSENT CALENDAR APPROVAL ACTION ON:

- A.**  Tab 2 AC Summary 092525 **(Tab 2)**

contact Tamara Flint (801) 629-4712  
or [tamarf@usdb.org](mailto:tamarf@usdb.org) for more information.

- B.**  Tab 3 Vacancy Report as of 101525.pdf **(Tab 3)**


contact Melanie Butters (801)  
629-4726 or [melanieb@usdb.org](mailto:melanieb@usdb.org) for  
more information.

- C.**  Tab 4 Donated Funds Summary as of 102025.pdf **(Tab 4)**

contact Deborah Jacobson (801)  
538-7627 [deborah.jacobson@schools](mailto:deborah.jacobson@schools.utah.gov)  
[.utah.gov](mailto:deborah.jacobson@schools.utah.gov) for more information.

It is recommended that the Advisory Council review and  
approve the Advisory Council minutes of September 25, 2025,  
the Vacancy Report as of October 15, 2025 and the  
Donated Funds Summary as of October 20, 2025.

4:50 - 5:05 p.m.



4.  Tab 5 FY2026 Enrichment Fund and Trust Lands Project Lists as of 10202...

- Deborah Jacobson **(Tab 5)**

5:05 - 5:15 p.m.



5.  LEA Enrichment Funds Request.pdf - Susan Patten (Tab 6)

5:15 - 5:25 p.m.

6.  BoardPolicy4002.pdf - Darin Nielsen (Tab 7)
-  USDB Community Council.pdf

## INFORMATION ITEMS

5:25 - 5:40 p.m.

7.  2024-25 USDB Annual Report Executive Summary -  
 2024-2025 USDB Annual Report - FINAL - Dr. Tanner & Ms. Patten (Tab 8)

5:40- 5:50 p.m.

8. USDB Subcommittee Update - Member Wood

5:50 - 6:00 p.m.

9. Superintendent Report

6:00 - 6:05 p.m.

10. Future Agenda Items

6:05 - 6:10 p.m.

11. Other
- The next meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2025 (third Thursday due to the Thanksgiving holiday).

### Public Comment

Individuals are welcome to address the Advisory Council. Please contact Tamara Flint [\(801\) 629-4712](tel:8016294712) or [tamaraf@usdb.org](mailto:tamaraf@usdb.org) with 24 hours advance notice with your name and the group you represent and a link will be shared with you. Each person will be limited to three minutes. Total time allotted for public comments will be a total of 15-minutes. Anyone needing more time should make that request in writing and arrange to be on the agenda at the next meeting.

### Notice of Procedure to Get on the USDB Advisory Council Agenda

Anyone interested in being on the agenda should contact Chairperson Ray Wright at [\(801\) 560-9866](tel:8015609866) / [metaltipman@gmail.com](mailto:metaltipman@gmail.com), Interim Assistant Superintendent Darin Nielsen at [\(801\) 629-4712](tel:8016294712) / [darinn@usdb.org](mailto:darinn@usdb.org), or Tamara Flint at [\(801\) 629-4712](tel:8016294712) / [tamaraf@usdb.org](mailto:tamaraf@usdb.org). Please do so by the Friday of the week prior to the meeting.

### Notice of Special Accommodation at Public Meetings

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals needing special accommodations (including auxiliary communicative aids and services) during this meeting should notify Tamara Flint [\(801\) 629-4712](tel:8016294712) or [tamaraf@usdb.org](mailto:tamaraf@usdb.org) at least three working days prior to the meeting.

# **UTAH SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND**

## **Advisory Council Meeting Summary**

**September 25, 2025**

**Openshaw Education Center**

### **4:30 p.m. - General Session**

**Attending:** John Clements, Voting Member, Zoom  
Kiara Guymon, Voting Member, Zoom  
Aunilie Hathaway, Voting Member  
Shari Solomon-Klebba, Non-Voting Member  
Philippe Montalette, Vice-Chair, Voting Member  
Katie Nelson, Voting Member, Zoom  
Amy Query, Voting Member  
Gretel Sampson, Non-Voting Member  
LeAnn Wood, Non-Voting Member  
Ray Wright, Chair, Voting Member

**Absent:** Kari Harbath, Voting Member

### **Also Attending:**

Tamara Flint, Executive Assistant  
Deborah Jacobson, USBE Assistant Superintendent of Operations - Zoom  
Darin Nielsen, USDB Assistant Superintendent  
Susan Patten, USB Associate Superintendent  
Vicki Summers, Finance Manager, Zoom  
Dr. Michelle Tanner, USD Associate Superintendent

### **Interpreters:**

Cindy Andersen, Interpreter  
Emily Longshore, Interpreter

### **Others:**

Sarah Erb, Parent of a blind student  
Yvonne Montalette, Visitor  
Jonathan Helgesen, USD Extracurricular Director  
Paula Plant, Schools Children's Trust Director  
Liz Mumford, Trust Advocacy Office

Jacquelyn Phillips, USB Executive Assistant

1. Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Wright welcomed Council members in attendance to the September 25, 2025 Advisory Council meeting. Ms. Guymon led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Wright introduced USDB Assistant Superintendent Darin Nielsen. Advisory Council members introduced themselves and shared what positions they support for the Advisory Council. Assistant Superintendent Nielsen provided background on himself and noted that he is working under Superintendent Hart.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

**ACTION ITEMS**

3. Consent Calendar

Mr. Wright asked Council members if they had any questions or concerns regarding the September 25, 2025 consent calendar. There were no questions or concerns. Mr. Montalette made a motion to accept the Advisory Council minutes for August 28, 2025, the Vacancy Report as of September 18, 2025 and the Donated Accounts Summary as of August 31, 2025. Ms. Hathaway seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous. Motion carried.

4. Enrichment Fund Requests

Ms. Patten reviewed an Enrichment Funds request that was tabled during the August Advisory Council meeting. The Enrichment Funds committee met to put in place certain parameters for requesting Enrichment funds for LEA and Family purposes. This request is for \$310 for registration for a 5th grade student to attend Utah Valley Coalition which is a five week conference . Skills that the student would gain from this event include community readiness skills, orientation & mobility, self-determination, independent living skills, social interaction, recreation & leisure. October 9th - November 20th at Utah Valley Coalition.

Chair Wright asked for a motion. Ms. Hathaway made a motion to approve the Enrichment request of \$310. Ms. Nelson seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous. Motion carried.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

### 5. Budget Update

Ms. Jacobson, Assistant Superintendent of Operations apologized for not being able to be there in person, but she is at a conference out of state. She oversees financial operations at USBE and USDB. She worked for the USDB for 21 years and has been with the USBE for 11 years. She is very familiar with USDB and is happy to be in this position to help.

She reported on the recent mandate to separate the two permanent trust funds (Enrichment Funds) into distinct trusts for the Schools for the Deaf and the Blind. Ms. Jacobson explained that the School for the Deaf's trust fund holds significantly less capital than the land dedicated to the School for the Blind. This funding disparity necessitates significant cuts to the Deaf school's 2025-2026 enrichment programs, raising concerns about the impact on student activities and language development. The Council discussed options to close the gap, including parent contributions and fundraising; however, these approaches face limitations due to administrative hurdles and student financial needs. To address the immediate shortfall, the Deaf school is considering reaching out to the USDB Foundation for temporary support while long-term solutions are explored. In addition, Ms. Jacobson is working with USDB staff to determine if budget adjustments can be made within the School for the Blind and their enrichment fund to mitigate the needs of the School for the Deaf.

Chair Wright wondered if this is a one year deficit or ongoing. Ms. Jacobson noted that it will be ongoing. There were 12 beneficiaries with the deaf and blind school being two of them. There are lands identified for each of these individual trusts. There is a big gap because some of the blind school lands were sold and there was a lump sum put into their trusts. The deaf school has more land and less interest coming in. Chair Wright thanked Ms. Jacobson for her detailed explanation. We will continue to address short term and long term solutions.

### 6. Audit Discussion/Review Board Policy 4002

Mr. Darin Nielsen presented an overview of the audit's four primary areas of recommendations: organizational structure, competency and accountability, policy, and data and funding. In addition, the Council reviewed a recommendation from Darin Nielsen proposing two changes to Board Policy 4002. The first change would modify the meeting schedule, allowing the Council to meet up to ten times per year rather than requiring a minimum of ten

meetings. This adjustment was prompted by a recent audit finding that highlighted the difficulty in consistently meeting the current requirement. The second change clarifies that the Advisory Council also functions as the Community Council for the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind. The Council was supportive of both recommendations, and the formal request will be forwarded to the USDB standing committee on October 14.

7. School Land Trust/Community Council Discussion

Paula Plant, School Children's Trust Director, provided the Advisory Council (which serves as the USDB school community council) with training on community council responsibilities and duties, as mandated by state statute 53G-7-1206. The training focused on the responsibilities and timeline for School Trust Program implementation, emphasizing the requirement for academic planning and evidence-based decision-making. Key requirements discussed included posting specific information such as rules of order, member bios with contact details, and meeting schedules on the school websites by October 20th.

8. 2025-26 USDB Positive Behavior Plans

Associate Superintendents Dr. Tanner and Ms. Patten shared the Positive Behavior Plans that have been created with input from students, parents, and staff. The council was supportive of these plans that will now be advanced to the October 14 USDB standing committee.

9. Enrichment Subcommittee Follow-up

Ms. Patten met with the Enrichment Subcommittee members that included Mr. Montalette, Mr. Wright, Ms. Query and Ms. Nelson to discuss specific parameters for future Enrichment Funds requests. Ms. Patten reviewed the changes that were made on the LEA and Family Enrichment request. The application has been changed which has been included in the link [change link on family](#) as it is the LEA application to include:

LEA - special interest support

Regional activities for students with blindness, low vision, or deafblindness

\$1,875 per student/per year for a total of \$25,000

Family - special interest support

\$750 per student on family application with a max of \$10,000

10. USDB Subcommittee Update

Member Wood noted that she is heading to Southern Utah to attend a conference to help new board members become better board members. Our last standing committee meeting voted on the USDB student owned device policy and did a deep dive of the recent USBE audit. A motion will be coming to the board to change the statute to appoint someone to the USDB as it is currently functioning under USBE.

11. Superintendent Report

**USD - Dr. Tanner**

School Improvement Plan - We are working on this as it is constantly being reviewed. We will bring this to Council when it is finalized.

Volleyball - Our volleyball team is at Idaho School for the Deaf and has won their first three games.

**USB - Ms. Patten**

TVI Memo - This memo goes out monthly statewide to TVI's to get the information out to parents via our TVI's, board members and Advisory Council. We want to streamline this information, so that it is reaching everyone and are open to any ideas on how to reach more parents. We encourage Advisory Council members to attend any of these activities. We are also trying to hit different regions of the state to meet the needs of students statewide.

12. Future Agenda Items

Space Camp presentation - postponed until November 20, 2025  
Review 2024-25 USDB Annual Report  
FY26 Enrichment Funds List  
USDB Subcommittee report - Member Wood

13. Other

Mr. Wright thanked everyone for attending the September 25, 2025 Advisory Council meeting. Our next meeting will be October 23, 2025.

October 7th Annual DSBVI Open House from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Please email any future agenda items to Ray Wright or Tamara Flint.  
The September 25, 2025 Advisory Council meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m

**USDB Vacancy Report as of October 15, 2025**

Org	Job Title	DPR	Schedule	Salary Range	F/P	State/ Enrichment
						Funds
5220	Driver/Vision Aide	10016886	AE	\$9.10 - \$18.00	P	S
5310	Paraprofessional	2 vacancies	AE	\$9.10 - \$18.00	P	S
	Educator for the Deaf/HH	40050035	AH	\$7.25 - \$99.99	F	S
5320	Job Coach	40050009	AE	\$17.29 - \$28.94	F	S
5330	Paraprofessional	2 vacancies	AE	\$9.10 - \$18.00	P	S
5340	Paraprofessional	2 vacancies	AE	\$9.10 - \$18.00	P	S
5400	Intervener	10 vacancies	AE	\$12.93 - \$20.50	P	S
5510	Deaf Mentor	2 vacancies	AE	\$12.85 - \$21.91	F	S
6115	Speech-Language Pathologist	40050129	AH	\$7.25 - \$99.99	F	S
6120	Substitute School Nurse	10019816	AH	\$21.10 - \$120.53	P	S
6140	School Counselor	10013849	AH	\$7.25 - \$99.99	F	S
6290	Educational Interpreter	6 vacancies	AH	\$7.25 - \$99.99	F	S
6730	General Maintenance Worker	40050759	AE	\$13.17 - \$19.79	F	S



## DONATED FUNDS OVERALL SUMMARY

October 20, 2025

BLIND CAMPUS SERVICES		KATE BORG/ROBBIN CLARK	
DF12	BLIND CLASSROOMS	\$	1,638.34
DF13	BLIND STEP PROGRAM	\$	-
DF17	MEMORY BOX	\$	-
KBS		JAMES SMITH	
DF30	KBS DISCRETIONARY	\$	4,564.88
ASL		HILARY MOODY	
DF43	DEAF CENTRAL DISCRETIONARY	\$	206.45
DEAF SOUTH		TREVOR SCHRAMM	
DF46	DEAF SOUTH DISCRETIONARY	\$	1,080.56
DF47	DEAF SOUTH SAINT GEORGE	\$	2,675.00
DF49	A. BREINHOLT DISCRETIONARY FUND	\$	2,440.28
JMS		PAIGE HUEFNER/MEAGAN FROWICK-MORGAN	
DF48	JMS DISCRETIONARY FUND	\$	29,001.02
DF53	JMS STUDENT BODY GOVERNMENT	\$	3,688.00
DF54	JMS GRANT SOCIAL SKILLS	\$	196.30
DUAL SENSORY		ERIN FARRER	
DF19	DEAF/BLIND DISCRETIONARY FUND	\$	2,396.70
DF20	DEAFBLIND ACTIVITIES	\$	678.60
PIP-BLIND		KAREN BORG	
DF22	PIP BLIND FAMILY CAMP	\$	10,561.97
PIP-DEAF		STEPHANIE MORGAN	
DF56	PIP DEAF FAMILY CAMP	\$	19,712.45
DEAF RESEDENTIAL		WADE HESTER	
DF35	DEAF RESIDENTIAL ACTIVITIES	\$	5,168.03
USDB DONATED FUNDS		DARIN NIELSEN	
DF01	USDB BLACK FOUNDATION	\$	9,090.00
DF02	ADVISORY COUNCIL FUNDS	\$	6,208.31
DF03	RURAL PROGRAMS	\$	3,000.00
DF04	SUPERINTENDENT DISCRETIONARY FUND	\$	76,467.01
USD ADMINISTRATION		MICHELLE TANNER	
DF06	USD INTERPRETERS	\$	4,954.69
DF21	USD ACTIVITIES DONATED ACCOUNT	\$	29,032.59
DF23	USD DISCRETIONARY FUND	\$	6,128.27
DF25	DEAF ATHLETICS	\$	-
DF29	DEAF SCIENCE	\$	2,531.66
DF57	LOANER HEARING AID BANK	\$	311.31
DF69	DEAF STUDY ABROAD	\$	255.49
DF71	CONFERENCES	\$	14,326.28

USB ADMINISTRATION		SUSAN PATTEN	
DF08	USB DISCRETIONARY FUND	\$	9,401.84
DF09	BLIND OLYMPICS	\$	8,421.83
DF10	PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT FOR THE BLIND	\$	1,800.51
DF11	SPACE CAMP FOR THE BLIND	\$	7,916.80
DF58	PRESCRIPTION GLASSES/LOW VISION AIDS	\$	6,091.39
DF61	STUDENT BRAILLE MATERIALS	\$	-
DF63	DEVICES FOR THE BLIND/SLC	\$	-
DF64	DEVICES FOR THE BLIND	\$	-
DF72	BLIND STUDY ABROAD	\$	3,374.00
COMMUNICATIONS		DARIN NIELSEN	
DF07	GENERAL MEMORIAL FUNDS	\$	512.09
DF59	EMERGENCY KITS	\$	47.68
		<b>Sum of Donated Funds</b>	<b>\$ 273,880.33</b>

## FY2026 USDB Enrichment and Trust Lands Projects

October 20, 2025

Function Code	Deaf School Enrichment Fund Projects	Superintendent Recommendations	FYTD Expenditures	AC Subcommittee Approval	Advisory Council Approval	Board Approval
	FY2026 Available Funds	\$ 200,981.54				
	Carryforward from FY2025	\$ -				
EF2605 USD	Field Trip Transportation		\$ -	X	X	
EF2601	<a href="#">Extra-Curricular Activities for the Deaf</a>	\$ 200,981.54	\$ 83,008.87	X	X	
EF2602	<a href="#">Deaf Mentor Program</a>	\$ -		X	X	
EF2601	<a href="#">Extra-Curricular Activities for the Deaf</a>	\$ -		X	X	
EF2607	<a href="#">Study Abroad - France</a>	\$ -		X	X	
EF2608	<a href="#">USD Sailing Experience</a>	\$ -		X	X	
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 83,008.87</b>			

Function Code	Blind School Enrichment Fund Projects	Superintendent Recommendations	FYTD Expenditures	AC Subcommittee Approval	Advisory Council Approval	Board Approval
	FY2026 Available Funds	\$ 1,208,573.47				
	Carryforward from FY2025	\$ 621,538.64				
EF2605	<a href="#">Field Trip Transportation</a>	\$ 20,000.00		X	X	
EF2610	<a href="#">Extra-Curricular Activities for the Blind</a>	\$ 155,000.00	\$ 60,765.96	X	X	
EF2612	<a href="#">Expanded Core for the Blind</a>	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 9,213.85	X	X	
EF2605	<a href="#">Genote</a>	\$ 50,000.00		X	X	
EF2606	<a href="#">Harmony Music</a>	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 3,680.00	X	X	
EF2609	<a href="#">LEA Activity Support</a>	\$ 25,000.00		X	X	
EF2611	<a href="#">Family Activity Support</a>	\$ 20,000.00		X	X	
EF2603	<a href="#">AT - ALMC</a>	\$ 25,000.00		X	X	
EF2604	<a href="#">AT - High Tech</a>	\$ 50,000.00		X	X	
EF2613	<a href="#">Salaries</a>	\$ 1,208,350.00				
EF2614	<a href="#">ERC USB Material refresh</a>	\$ 50,000.00				
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 46,762.11</b>	<b>\$ 73,659.81</b>			

Function Code	USDB Trust Lands Fund Projects	Superintendent Recommendations	FYTD Expenditures	AC Subcommittee Approval	Advisory Council Approval	Board Approval
	FY2026 Available Funds	\$ 35,396.20				
	Carryforward from FY2025	\$ 33,480.46				
EF2620	School Community Land Grant	\$ 35,396.20		X	X	
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 33,480.46</b>	<b>\$ -</b>			

# Family/Community Activity Support - Funds Request

The USDB Advisory Council has recently approved the allocation of Enrichment Funds for LEA use statewide. These funds will support blind and low vision students across the state to participate in various events with their sighted peers in their LEA, families, or communities.

These funds can be used for various purposes, such as extracurricular equipment, travel, special interests, and supporting competitions like the Braille Challenge National, etc.

Districts and families throughout Utah can access these funds by submitting an application to the USDB Advisory Council. The application and any other supporting documentation should be sent via email to Executive Assistant Tamara Flint at [tamaraf@usdb.org](mailto:tamaraf@usdb.org).

## Requestor Information:

Name: Cheralyn Johnson

Student Name: Millie Creer

Phone: 801-651-5504

Email: [cheralyn.unme@gmail.com](mailto:cheralyn.unme@gmail.com)

School District: Davis

School Name: Farmington High School

Current Grade: 10th

## Event/Project Information:

Event/Project Name: FHS Performing Arts NYC Tour

Dates: 1/29/26 - 2/2/26

## Event/Project Description:

This tour includes: performing at Carnegie Hall, attending a Broadway Show & performance workshop

Visiting: the 911 Memorial, the Statue of Liberty, the Metropolitan Museum, SUMMIT One Vanderbilt Observation Deck

## Areas of the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) that will be Addressed:

Career Education / Independent Living / Orientation & Mobility / Recreation & Leisure / self

Determination / Social Interaction Skills

Amount Requested: \$4,000

## Itemized list of what the funding will be used for:

Airfare, hotel, all meals, all ticket/entrance fees, subway passes, tour hosts

Other funding sources? Family contributions

<b>UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY</b>
Policy Number: 4002
Policy Name: Advisory Council for the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind
Date Approved: May 4, 2023

The Utah State Board of Education (the Board) hereby establishes the Advisory Council for the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (the Advisory Council).

1. The purpose of the Advisory Council

The purpose of the council is to:

- a. discuss and make recommendations to the USDB Superintendency and the Board regarding the needs of deaf, blind, and deaf-blind students;
- b. provide feedback to the Board from their areas of expertise; and
- c. provide recommendations to the Board on use of enrichment funds and donated funds.

2. Meetings

- a. The Advisory Council shall meet ten times per year at the call of the USDB Superintendent.
- b. The Advisory Council may solicit public input, but is not subject to Title 52, Chapter 4, Open and Public Meetings Act.
- c. The Advisory Council shall conduct committee business in accordance with bylaws adopted by the Board, which shall include:
  - i. nominating procedures for Advisory Council members;
  - ii. dismissal procedures for Advisory Council members;
  - iii. ethical standards; and procedures for operations.

3. Staff

The USDB Superintendency shall serve as staff to the Advisory Council and shall:

- a. provide clerical support to facilitate meeting logistics, prepare meeting

agendas and minutes, and assist with required written communication to the Board;

- b. send a copy of each Advisory Council agenda to the Board at least three days before the Advisory Council meeting; and
- c. prepare a one-two page summary of each Advisory Council meeting and send the summary with Advisory Council recommendations to the Board by e-mail.

#### 4. Membership

- a. The Advisory Council shall be comprised of the following members:
  - i. Up to 11 voting members, including at a minimum:
    - A. two members who are blind;
    - B. two members who are deaf;
    - C. two members who are deaf-blind or parents of a deaf-blind child;
    - D. one parent of a blind student; and
    - E. one parent of a deaf student;
  - ii. 1 non-voting member from the Board, appointed by the Board chair.
- b. The Board may appoint other members who have an interest in and knowledge of the needs and education of students who are deaf, blind, and deaf-blind.
- c. Members shall be appointed to serve two-year terms and may serve up to three terms.
- d. Notwithstanding, Subsection (c), Advisory Council members serve at the pleasure of the Board.

#### 5. Applicability of Board Policies

- a. This policy is subject to Policy 1004 – Advisory Groups.

Board Members and USBE Superintendency and staff,

Thank you for spending the energy required to engage in these conversations each month during public meetings as well as the conversations occurring with your constituents in between public meetings. During the October 2025 board meeting, Superintendent Hart reported to the board of education will be a "flurry" of policy changes in the coming months. I welcome these discussions about needed policy changes, and would like to provide my input on the following agenda item:

**Board rule 4002: Advisory Council to include the role of the school community council**

I do not recommend this change to rule 4002 for the following reasons:

- The school land trust policy requires that School Community Councils consist of a principal, school staff (teachers or other), and that each meeting have a **parent majority** over school staff. Parents are defined as parents of students who attend the school. If there are over 300 campus students, and the USDB staff can't encourage 5 or so parents to participate on the SCC, could we encourage the staff to take a different approach to reach out to more parents, rather than giving the school staff's and parent's role away to a different group of stakeholders who are further from the students who attend the campus schools? School Land Trust Funds for this purpose are solely for the use of academic progress of students who attend the campus schools.
  - Questions:
    - If the board favors local control, then would it be appropriate when acting as the governing body of USDB, to request the USD and USB superintendents to work directly with the school staff (teachers or other) and parents of the students at campus schools?
  - Is it necessary that USDB be exempt from the school community council process that includes parents as the primary stakeholders for local LEAs/schools, as defined by the school trust lands policy?
- The advisory council has a lot of work to do, especially now that more meaningful dialogue and discussion has occurred in the Advisory Council, since the summer of 2025, when USDB has been completely under the governance and oversight of the state board of education. I feel strongly that the Advisory Council Meetings should be strictly reserved for agenda items that include the purposes for which this council was/is designated.
  - Limit Confusion. The advisory council already advises the USDB admin and USBE trust land funds that are used for 2 [separate] enrichment funds for students across the entire state. Keeping the school community trust funds under the school community council alleviates confusion during the Advisory Council Meetings that has been VERY apparent over the past 4 years.
- Question: Would it be appropriate to have 2 SCC's--one for the schools for the Deaf and one for the schools for the Blind, and that the funds be pro-rated according to the 2 schools enrollment?

## History:

- I was on USDB's school community council for 3 years, from 2018 through May 2021, and I was the last chair of the council prior to Associate Superintendent Michelle Tanner's request to shift the SCC to the USDB AC in August of 2021. I am aware that in the Fall of 2021, the board of education approved the USDB's administration request to allow the advisory council to serve the role of the school community council. The only reason given at that time is that it was difficult to have parents attend these meetings. Was data provided to support this as an issue?
- For reference, these meetings are around 30-45 minutes each, and the school community council meets 3 times per year. The amount of funds that USDB is provided for this is around \$50,000.
- Why was the school community council moved to be the responsibility of the USDB Advisory council in the first place? There was very little discussion about this change in the Fall of 2021, when Superintendent Tanner notified the advisory council that they would also take on the role of the school community council. *Why is USDB Admin discouraging parent and teacher involvement at the most local levels?*

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns prior to this being brought to the November board meeting.



## 2024-2025 USDB Annual Report: Executive Summary

The Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (USDB) has a long-standing legacy of providing specialized education to children who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, low vision, or deafblind since 1884. This annual report for the 2024-2025 school year highlights the organization's programs, activities, student academic performance, and financial overview.

### Key Highlights:

- **Accountability and Improvement:** USDB underwent several important reviews, including a systematic performance audit by the Office of the Legislative Auditor General (OLAG) and an audit by the Utah State Board of Education's Internal Audit Department. Additionally, USDB participated in the Utah Program Improvement Planning System (UPIPS) and successfully passed an accreditation review, performing better than the national average.
- **Student Demographics and Services:** In 2024–25, USDB served 2,218 students statewide through various programs, including Parent Infant Programs, campus-based programs, outreach services, and online programs. A total of 184 teachers, 17 educational directors, 52 related service providers, and 128 support staff supported these students. Campus programs served 415 students, with a teacher-to-student ratio of approximately 1 to 6.
- **Enrollment Trends:** USDB has seen significant enrollment changes, with 415 students in 2024–25, the highest in over a decade, representing a 30% increase since 2019–20. There has also been an 80% increase in students with multiple disabilities, from 47 in 2017–18 to 84 in 2024–25, indicating a rising demand for specialized instruction.
- **Graduation Outcomes:** USDB achieved a 100% graduation rate for eligible seniors in 2024–2025, with 13 students graduating (10 deaf and 3 blind). This rate significantly surpasses state and national averages for students with disabilities, attributed to individualized supports, small class sizes, and targeted transition planning.
- **School for the Deaf (USD) Programs:**
  - **Campus Programs:** USD offers campus-based programs at Kenneth Burdett School (KBS), Jean Massieu School (JMS), Elizabeth DeLong School (EDS), the Listening and Spoken Language (LSL) program, the Southern Utah School of the Deaf (SUSD), and an Online Deaf School.
  - **Communication Approaches:** Families can choose between Dual Language (American Sign Language and Spoken English) and Listening and Spoken Language (LSL) classrooms.
  - **Parent Infant Program for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing (PIPDHH):** Served 321 children and their families, providing family-centered services through tele-intervention and in-home visits.
  - **Statewide Outreach and Online Services:** Served 549 students in their neighborhood schools, providing direct instruction, audiology support, and interpreting services.

- **Extracurricular Programs:** Offered over 125 after-school activities, 45 summer camps, and supported four sports programs, with over 476 students participating in summer programming and 43 in sporting events.
- **School for the Blind (USB) Programs:**
  - **Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC):** A disability-specific curriculum covering nine essential areas, including compensatory skills, orientation and mobility, and assistive technology.
  - **Early Childhood Division:** Includes the Parent Infant Program for the Blind and Visually Impaired (PIPBI), serving 349 children, and a preschool program with 35 students across three campuses.
  - **Outlook Elementary:** Served 18 students (K-6th grade), providing highly specialized instruction for students with vision impairments, including those with complex needs and Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI).
  - **Bridges Secondary School:** Served 7 students (9th - Post High), integrating USBE Portrait of a Graduate competencies, ECC, and Utah state standards. The school launched the Next Step Reading Program and continued using GloSS and IKAN for numeracy.
  - **Outreach Vision Services:** 27 Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments (TSVIs) and 15 Orientation and Mobility Instructors (O&Ms) served 586 students statewide.
  - **Deafblind Services:** Provided IEP services for up to 148 children/students statewide, supported by 15 Teachers of the Deafblind (TDBs) and 49 interveners.
  - **Utah State Instructional Materials Access Center (USIMAC):** Served 213 students from 44 districts/charter schools, providing accessible classroom materials in formats like large print, PDF, or braille.
  - **Enrichment Programs:** Included the Assistive Technology Team (ATT), which offered 80 comprehensive consultations and completed 3602 low-tech orders, and the Expanded Core Services Team, with 337 individual registrations for events. Extracurricular programs included high adventure excursions and sports.