



Dr. Stephanie Speicher
State Charter School Board
10008 Creek Run Way, Sandy, UT, 84070
October 10, 2025

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

Dear Superintendent Hart,

American Leadership Academy presented a waiver recommendation request to the State Charter School Board on October 9, 2025. Currently, the LEA is exempted from the requirements of R277-419-4, specifically, the requirement that a LEA conduct school for a minimum of 180 school days in a school year. American Leadership Academy in keeping with the mandate to be innovative, has instituted a four-day school week which allows for additional remediation for students on Friday, and provides teachers with much needed time for collaboration. This collaboration time allows for data review to improve evaluations, drive instruction, receive input from other teacher team members, and lesson preparation. A high percentage of their teachers, parents and students believe the four-day school week has been beneficial to their academic success, attendance, and the school's overall culture. The waiver to board rule has allowed ALA the ability to more fully accomplish their mission statement of "partnering with families to provide a comprehensive educational experience, and individualized student learning for college and career readiness." The waiver has provided the opportunity for families to engage in cultural excursions, learning trips and career related opportunities.

With data presented, and support from their school community, and because the school is in good standing with its authorizer, the SCSB fully recommends that the USBE grant this continued waiver request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Speicher".

Dr. Stephanie Speicher
Board Chair
State Charter School Board



Waiver from USBE Board Rule Request

The vision of the Utah State Charter School Board (SCSB) is that "every student has access to an excellent education that meets their unique learning needs."

Introduction

The purpose of the Waiver Request is to provide a process for a charter school governing board to request a waiver, as permitted, from USBE rule. The Waiver Request is based on R277-121 and the premise that a waiver also entails a contractual amendment to the charter.

Submission

Application must be uploaded into the Applications Folder of the documents section in the Utah Charter Access Point (UCAP) system no later than **5:00pm MST on the third Friday of the month prior** to the SCSB meeting.

Staff Eligibility Review

After receipt, SCSB staff reviews request to include associated academic, financial, and operational performance and compliance. Once the applicant is deemed Administratively Complete, the applicant (if appropriate) will be invited to the next SCSB meeting.

State Charter School Board Consideration

At the scheduled SCSB meeting, members will consider the request. Schools have opportunity to answer questions. Normally scheduled meeting is **typically the second Thursday**. If approved, staff will provide the school with a letter from the board chair recommending approval from the SCSB. **The school must submit the written request to the Superintendent, following the steps outlined in rule.**

Applicant Assurances

Print this sheet, complete and sign the spaces at the bottom, scan, and attach to the electronic application.

The Board Chair must sign the following agreement prior to submitting the application package.

Should the agreement be signed by someone other than the current Board Chair, the application package will be deemed Administratively Incomplete.

School Name: American Leadership Academy

The Applicant certifies all information contained in this application is complete and accurate, realizing that any misrepresentation could result in disqualification from the Waiver Request process or revocation after award.

The Applicant understands that applications must be uploaded into the UCAP system no later than the third Friday of the month preceding the month of the requested SCSB meeting and that incomplete applications will not be considered.

The Applicant acknowledges that all information presented in the application package, if approved, may become part of the charter to be used for accountability purposes throughout the term of the charter.

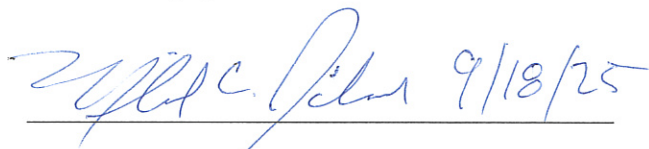
The Applicant acknowledges that the charter school governing board is subject to all Utah statutes regarding charter schools as well as all relevant federal, state and local laws, and requirements, and should comply with such.

The Applicant acknowledges that the most current academic and compliance data will be provided to the SCSB for its consideration of the application.

The applicant acknowledges that prior to inclusion on the agenda, the SCSB recommends charter school governing boards read the associated rule and information documents, as well as schedule an appointment with SCSB staff to discuss the request and provide clarification to any questions.

Michael Johnson

Name of Board Chair

 9/18/25

Signature of Board Chair/Date

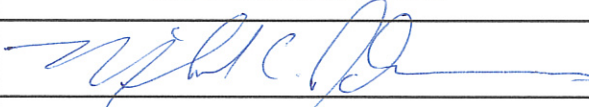

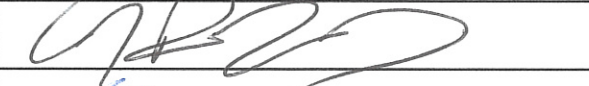
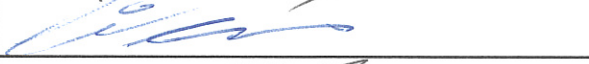
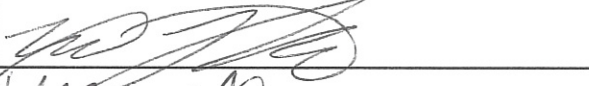

School Entity Information

Name of School: American Leadership Academy

Name of School Administrator: Richard Morley

Contact Information for School: 898 West 1100 South Spanish Fork Utah, 84660 801-794-2226

Below, list the names and positions of all current Board Members (officers, members, directors, partners), and their positions. Also list any other current charters in which they act as a corporate principal or charter representative. Add rows as necessary.

Name	Position	All Charter Affiliations
Mike Johnson	Chair	
Brenda Peterson	Vice Chair	
Cody Reynolds	Treasurer	
Shelbi Soza	Parent Council Member	
Matt Throckmorton	Elected Member	
Monique Hone	Appointed Member	

Contractual Charter Agreement Goals

List the school's contractual goals.

Required Attachments:

- If the school is *not* meeting all its charter contractual agreement goals, then include the governing board's corrective action plan. (Corrective action plan limited to two pages.)

Waiver Requests Require both State Charter School Board (SCSB) and Utah State Board of Education (USBE) Approval

The following request may take 2-3 months to complete.

Waivers from a Board rule are not granted if the requirement is required by or adopts criteria from a federal statute, federal regulation, or state law, would negatively affect the health, safety, or welfare of public education students, could reasonably result in discrimination or harassment of public school students or employees, would benefit one element of the public education system to the detriment of another; or when the concerns giving rise to an request could be addressed through means other than waiver of Board rules.

Waiver from Board Rule

Rule Number and Title: R277-419-4 Minimum School Days

Describe why the waiver is necessary to meet the mission and/or purposes(s) of the school and help the governing board meet the terms and conditions of its contractual agreement.

The waiver from 180 day board rule is integral to our schools ability to meet the needs of teachers and students.

American Leadership Academy in keeping with the mandate to be innovative, has instituted a four day school week which allows for additional remediation for students on Friday, and provide teachers with much needed time for collaboration. This collaboration time allows for data review to improve evaluations, drive instruction, receive input from other teacher team members, and lesson preparation. A high percentage of our teachers, parents and student believe the four day school weeks has been beneficial to their academic success, attendance, and school's overall culture. The waiver to board rule has allowed ALA the ability to more fully accomplish our mission statement of "partnering with families to provide a comprehensive educational experience, and individualized student learning for college and career readiness". The waiver has provided the opportunity for families to engage in cultural excursions, learning trips and career related opportunities.

In summary the waiver to the 180 day board rule has provided a unique opportunity for students, families and teacher to focus on academic achievement by targeting areas of needed individual growth, emphasis on individual learning interests, and strengthening the family school partnership.