



Subject: Request for Consideration of Charter Amendment to Offer Online Courses

Dear Members of the Utah State Charter School Board:

On behalf of the Merit Preparatory Academy Governing Board, I would like to respectfully request consideration to be placed on an upcoming State Charter School Board meeting agenda for a proposed charter amendment that would allow us to offer online courses.

We understand that the Board has limited opportunities for hearing amendment requests at this time and appreciate the thoughtful approach being taken to manage those requests. Our intent in reaching out is simply to explain our circumstances and seek guidance on the best path forward.

Though some schools have sought online permissions primarily to partner with third-party organizations, such as Harmony or OpenEd, to increase enrollment beyond their local student body, we want to assure the Board that this is not Merit's intent. Our goal is not to increase enrollment through outside partners, but rather to extend our existing mission and educational model to reach more Utah students through the Statewide Online Education Program (SOEP).

Merit is working closely with Cory Kanth and the SOEP team to develop a truly integrated online program—one that maintains the same high standards of quality, content creation, and instructional delivery that define our in-person courses. Our focus is on serving students across Utah with the same care, personalization, and academic integrity that have guided Merit since its founding.

In order to make Merit's courses available through SOEP for the upcoming school year, our approved course list must be finalized by February.

We are hopeful that, if possible, our amendment request could be scheduled for review at the next available meeting so that we may align with the SOEP timeline. We are deeply appreciative of the Board's consideration and ongoing support of schools seeking to expand access and opportunity for Utah students.

Warm regards,

Rachel Jay
Board President
Merit Preparatory Academy