

Jan 8, 2026



The meeting was conducted in electronic format.

Members Present: Cindy Davis, Cole Kelley, Randy Boothe, Matt Hymas, and Christina Boggess (CB – present unless noted).

Committee Staff: Scott Jones, and Cammy Wilcox.

Others Present: Deborah Jacobson, Sam Urie, Jared Felt, Dale Frost, Aaron Brough, Chris Helvey, Todd Hauber, Greg Connell, Katrina Brinkely, Michael Iwasaki, Paula Plant, Rebecca Nielsen, Sara Harward, Winona Moss, Kellie Tyrrell, Kathy Olson, and Noralee Green.

Committee Chair Davis called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

USBE Staff Highlights:

- Kellie Tyrrell, Support Services Coordinator, Information Technology
- Kathy Olson, Financial Manager, Financial Ops

Public Comment:

There were no requests for public comment.

5.2 R277-479, Funding for Charter School Students with Disabilities on an IEP (Amendment)

Committee Discussion: Staff recommend amending R277-479 to address the issue of inflated SPED Add-On WPU levels for charter schools that have previously expanded. At the November 2025 Finance Committee meeting, staff presented on this matter, noting that the immediate concern related specifically to charter schools in their first or second year of operation—whether newly established or recently expanded. This is due to the requirements of R277-479-3, which mandate that SPED Add-On WPUs for these schools be revised to reflect actual student counts. Such revisions would have resulted in significant funding reductions for several charter schools.

In December, following the Committee's recommendation, the Board approved a motion to waive the requirements under R277-479-3 for FY26 for expanding charter schools that would have received budget reductions under the rule. The Committee further directed staff to collaborate with charter schools to develop recommended amendments to the rule that would address this issue for all charter schools beginning in FY27 and beyond.

Staff subsequently engaged with various charter representatives to analyze a range of potential approaches for phasing down SPED Add-On WPU levels. Of the scenarios considered, staff recommend that the Committee focus on rule

Jan 8, 2026



changes consistent with Scenarios E, F, or G as outlined in the attached presentation. The proposed rule in the supporting documentation incorporates ratios aligned with Scenario G.

Staff advise that all proposed changes to the rule be adopted, with the ratios amended to correspond to whichever phase-in scenario the Committee ultimately recommends to the Board.

Staff presented R277-479, Funding for Charter School Students with Disabilities on an IEP, Draft 1, for consideration and approval.

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [Art X, Sec 3](#); [53E-3-501\(1\)\(c\)\(vi\)\(A\)](#); [53E-7-206](#); [53E-3-401\(4\)](#)

Committee Action:

Member Davis Motion:

That the Committee approves R277-479, Funding for Charter School Students with Disabilities on an IEP, Draft 1, as amended, on first reading and forward to the Board for approval on second and final reading.

The motion passed unanimously – CB absent.

Member Hymas Motion:

That the Committee approves R277-479, Funding for Charter School Students That the committee amend R277-479, Draft 1, Lines 152-162 to incorporate funding Scenario E.

The motion passed 3-1 with Members Hymas, Boothe, and Davis in favor and Member Kelley opposed – CB absent.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD:

That the Board approves R277-479, Funding for Charter School Students with Disabilities on an IEP, Draft 2, on second and final reading.

5.3 Review of Internal Policies and Potential Action for Grant (of any type) Application and Acceptance by the Utah State Board of Education

Committee Discussion: The [Budgetary Procedures Act](#) governs federal grants management by state agencies and the Utah State Board of Education. Specifically, Chapter 5, Federal Funds Procedures Act

In addition to federal grants, the Utah State Board of Education receives state grants and, occasionally, private grants but not without legislative appropriation (approval) and board approval. Internal policies [01-08](#) and [03-01](#) were established

Jan 8, 2026



in accordance with Board Policy 1001, Paragraph (7)(a). "The Superintendent, Board sections, and USDB, may adopt their own respective internal policies, as needed, so long as they don't conflict with Board policies, Board administrative rule, or federal and state law." and as part of the overall internal controls system for financial control and management of funds by USBE staff and systems.

Committee Action:**Member Boothe Motion:**

The Committee recommends that the Board study and support the current grant application process.

The motion passed unanimously

MOTION FOR THE BOARD:

That the Board studies and supports the current grant application process.

5.4 USBE Annual Research Agenda Submission to the Utah Data Research Center (UDRC)

Committee Discussion: Each year, the Utah State Board of Education (USBE), in collaboration with its data partners, submits a formal research agenda to the Utah Data Research Center (UDRC). This agenda identifies key research priorities and data inquiries for the upcoming fiscal year. By leveraging Utah's PK-20W longitudinal data system, these studies provide evidence-based insights to guide state education policy and evaluate the effectiveness of statewide curriculum standards.

The UDRC, established under UCA 53B-33, manages Utah's longitudinal data pipeline, connecting records from K-12 (USBE), higher education (USHE), and workforce data (DWS). This cross-agency integration enables analysis of long-term impacts of curriculum changes—such as the shift from traditional to integrated mathematics—on outcomes like college remediation rates and career earnings.

USBE staff seek to ensure the final submission to UDRC reflects the Board's current priorities. In addition to the math curriculum study, the Finance Committee is invited to propose additional research topics or specific metrics for inclusion in the annual agenda.

Committee Action:**Member Kelley Motion:**

The Committee recommends that the Board approve the Integrated Mathematics research proposal into the final UDRC Annual Research Agenda request.

Jan 8, 2026



The motion passed unanimously

MOTION FOR THE BOARD:

That the Board approve the Integrated Mathematics research proposal into the final UDRC Annual Research Agenda request.

5.5 Recognition of Progress, Achievements, or Improvements

Deputy Superintendent Scott Jones acknowledged staff for the number of fiscal notes they have already received and responded to, as well as their quick turnaround as the upcoming legislative approaches.

5.5.1 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.

Staff provided an overview of the changes made since the previous report.

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

Committee Information: Utah Grants is USBE's system for managing the entire grant process—applications, awards, payments, and monitoring. It serves USBE staff, LEAs, and CBO partners, with ongoing development to meet agency needs and ensure proper safeguards.

Staff provided an overview of the changes made since the previous report.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.