

January 9, 2026

To Members of USBE Finance Committee and the Utah State Board of Education,

SCSB Recommendations for Fall 2026 Charter School Revolving Loans

The State Charter School Board reviewed the recommendations of the Revolving Loan Committee on January 8, 2026. The Board listened to presentations for 7 new charter schools with previously approved requests. Of the 7 that applied, 5 new charter schools were approved.

Considering 5 new charter schools were approved, and 8 applicants for expansion will be discussed at the February Board Meeting, the Board is aware that Revolving Loan dollars will be highly sought in the spring of 2026. The current loan applicants are also in the FY26 fiscal year. Due to Statute and Rule dictating no more than \$2,000,000 may be distributed in total for any fiscal year, SCSB recognizes that current loans will need to be diminished to allow all probable applicants availability to some funds.

Their recommendations are as follows:

Azure Fields Charter School: As they are in their pre-operational year, and have been relying solely on grant start-up funds, they are in a position of need. Azure Fields applied for \$300,00, and SCSB recommends \$200,000 be distributed to them upon full approval of USBE.

Virtual Horizons: LEA has previously received a revolving loan for \$300,00. Since loan amounts have been expanded to \$500,000 in Rule, and they are looking to expand into high school grades next year, they applied for an additional \$200,000. SCSB recommends awarding them \$100,000 upon full approval of USBE.

Bear River Charter School: LEA is looking to begin an approved expansion in late summer of FY26. SCSB recommends tabling their application until the Spring Round of loans to be grouped with other expansion applicants.