

May 22, 2026

Utah State Board of Education

The meeting was conducted in electronic format.

Members Present: Cindy Davis, Cole Kelley, Randy Boothe, and Matt Hymas

Committee Staff: Sam Urie and Cammy Wilcox.

Others Present: Ben Rasmussen, Aaron Brough, Garrett Russell, Megan Menlove, John Palmer, Paula Plant, Michael Iwasaki, Dale Frost, Winona Moss, Noralee Green, Alex Farah, and Jerry Record.

Committee Chair Davis called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Public Comment:

There were no requests for public comment.

4.2 R277-726, Statewide Online Education Program (Amendment)

Committee Discussion: Staff recommended updates to the rule to revise definitions and streamline the rule language by removing provisions that duplicate existing statutory requirements.

Staff presented Draft 1 of R277-726, Statewide Online Education Program, for committee consideration and approval.

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 3](#); [53F-4-510](#); [53F-4-514](#); [53E-3-401](#)

Committee Direction: The committee asked staff to review previous input from Mr. Van Tassel regarding the statewide online education program rule and confirm if all technical and substantive issues have been addressed.

Staff will also monitor for a response from the bill sponsor about the use of the word "relevant" in statute and, if needed, revise the rule for full board consideration before final reading.

Committee Action:

Member Boothe Motion:

That the Committee approves R277-726, Statewide Online Education Program, Draft 1, on first reading and forward to the Board for approval on second and final reading.

Motion: Passed unanimously.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD: That the Board approves R277-726, Statewide Online Education Program, Draft 1, on second and final reading.

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4.3 **R277-419, Pupil Accounting (Amendment & Continuation)**

Committee Discussion: Committee members discussed proposed amendments to R277-419, Pupil Accounting, to align the rule with SB 58 and HB 358. The amendments update pupil accounting provisions to reflect new statutory definitions and requirements related to student participation, including attendance-based, learner-based, and credit-based measurement models. The changes also clarify how membership and weighted pupil units (WPU) are calculated across program types and update data collection and reporting requirements to improve accuracy and accountability.

Staff explained that the amendments clarify definitions of attendance-validated and learner-validated programs to ensure consistent funding calculations across the state.

Staff presented Draft 1 of R277-419, Pupil Accounting, for committee consideration and approval.

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 3; 53E-3-401\(4\); 53F-2-102\(7\); 53E-3-501\(1\)\(e\); 53E-3-602\(2\); 53E-3-301\(3\)\(d\); 53G-4-404](#)

Committee Action:

Member Boothe Motion:

That the Committee approves R277-419, Pupil Accounting, Draft 1, on first reading and forward to the Board for approval on second and final reading.

Motion: Passed unanimously.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD: That the Board approves R277-419, Pupil Accounting, Draft 1, on second and final reading.

4.4 **R277-607, Absenteeism and Truancy Prevention (Amendment)**

Committee Discussion: Committee members discussed proposed amendments to R277-607, Absenteeism and Truancy Prevention, to align the rule with S.B. 58 and H.B. 502. The amendments revise attendance-related definitions, expectations, and processes, and clarify how student participation and absences are measured across different instructional models. The changes also update local education agency (LEA) responsibilities related to attendance policies, communication, reporting, implementation, and oversight to support consistent and effective attendance practices statewide.

Staff presented Draft 1 of R277-607, Absenteeism and Truancy Prevention, for committee consideration and approval.

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Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 3](#); [53E-3-401\(4\)](#); [53G-6-206](#); [53G-9-804](#)

Committee Action:**Member Kelley Motion:**

That the Committee approves R277-607, Absenteeism and Truancy Prevention, Draft 1, on first reading and forward to the Board for approval on second and final reading.

Motion: Passed unanimously.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD: That the Board approves R277-607, Absenteeism and Truancy Prevention, Draft 1, on second and final reading.

4.5 R277-484, Data Standards (Amendment)

Committee Discussion: Committee members discussed proposed amendments to R277-484, Data Standards, to align the rule with S.B. 58, Public School Attendance Amendments. The amendments add definitions related to attendance-validated and learner-validated programs, update data submission requirements based on program type, incorporate new data quality and monitoring requirements, add provisions for attendance data audits and corrective action, and align reporting requirements with new statutory attendance tracking provisions.

During the discussion, members reviewed proposed changes to attendance tracking policies, including unexcused absences and truancy reporting requirements. Staff explained that the current system considers students present if they attend any portion of the school day, while the proposed changes would require a 50% attendance threshold before truanies are reported. The committee also discussed requirements for LEAs to unenroll students after 10 consecutive unexcused absences, or after 30 days for special education students, while noting administrator discretion in implementation. Members further discussed the impact of the changes on state data submissions and student cohort tracking, with staff clarifying that unenrolled students remain part of an LEA's cohort until they enroll elsewhere.

Staff presented Draft 1 of R277-484, Data Standards, for committee consideration and approval.

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 3](#); [53E-3-301\(d\) and \(e\)](#); [53E-3-401](#); [53E-3-401\(8\)\(a\)](#); [53E-3-511\(8\)](#)

Committee Direction: Staff will continue to develop and share improved graphic representations/charts illustrating attendance, truancy, and chronic absenteeism calculations for clarity with LEAs and the board.

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**Member Boothe Motion:**

That the Committee approves R277-484, Data Standards, Draft 1, on first reading and forward to the Board for continuation and approval on second and final reading.

Motion: Passed unanimously.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD: That the Board approves R277-484, Data Standards, Draft 1, on second and final reading.

4.6 2027 Legislative Funding Request Information

Committee Discussion: The Utah State Board of Education Finance Committee is beginning the process of identifying recommended funding requests for the Utah Legislature's 2027 General Session.

The committee discussed legislative budget requests and the importance of prioritizing funding needs and identifying potential budget reductions. Chair Hymas suggested that legislators want to see prioritization and a willingness to make cuts, rather than only requesting additional funding. The committee agreed to review last year's funding requests and gather stakeholder input before making recommendations for the next legislative session.

Committee Direction: Member Boothe requested that staff bring feedback from the State Charter School Board, local district boards, and other relevant stakeholders regarding legislative session feedback, program impacts, and local administrator/parent/community concerns to the next meeting to inform funding priorities.

Committee Direction: Member Davis requested that staff prepare a funding request for the cost to fund self-contained students at a 2.5 WPU weighting.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD: No motion for the Board.

4.7 School Children's Trust Quarterly Report

Committee Discussion: Staff presented the School Children's Trust Quarterly Report with updates on rule changes, compliance monitoring efforts, and a proposed land exchange with the University of Utah related to the FORGE geothermal research project.

Committee members discussed establishing guardrails for the Education Stabilization Fund, which was used to support the Department of Natural Resources land purchase. Staff indicated that additional information would be emailed to the Committee regarding why the land was not offered through the auction process.

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Member Davis Motion:

The Committee directs staff to bring back information and potential options regarding the process for establishing guardrails around the Education Stabilization Fund.

Motion: Passed unanimously.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD: No motion for the Board.

4.8 FY25 LEA Financial Audit Findings

Committee Discussion: Staff presented a summary of LEA financial audit findings from the fiscal year 2025. LEAs are required to conduct a third-party audit each year. Staff follows up with LEAs that receive more serious audit findings to ensure issues are resolved prior to the following audit cycle.

4.9 FY27 Legislative Estimates (Minimum School Program)

Committee Discussion: Staff presented estimates for LEA distributions for fiscal year 2027 based on the budgetary actions approved during the 2026 legislative session.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:19 p.m.