

Form - Application/Cover Sheet

UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Waiver of Administrative Rule

UAC R277-121 allows an LEA to request a waiver from a Board rule. This cover sheet should be used as a checklist in preparation of necessary materials and supporting documents.

1. LEA: City Academy
2. SCHOOL(S): City Academy
3. RULE REQUESTING TO BE WAIVED: We want to extend our opening date from this Fall 2026 to Fall 2027.
4. REASONING/JUSTIFICATION FOR REQUESTED WAIVER: We did not have enough interest to open the school.

5. CHOOSE ONE:

- ☒ THIS IS A NEW WAIVER
- ☐ THIS IS A REQUEST TO RENEW AN EXISTING WAIVER

DATE WAIVER WAS FIRST GRANTED _____

6. ATTACH DATA TO SUPPORT THE REQUEST WHICH SHOULD INCLUDE:

- ☒ STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT DATA
- ☒ COMMUNITY, STAFF, OR STUDENT SURVEY DATA
- ☒ STUDENT ENROLLMENT DATA
- ☐ FOR RENEWALS: DOCUMENTATION THAT OUTLINES HOW THE WAIVER WAS UTILIZED

7. ATTACH VERIFICATION OF THE FOLLOWING (AS APPLICABLE TO THE TYPE OF LEA)

- ☒ LEA GOVERNING BOARD VOTE APPROVING REQUEST FOR WAIVER IN OPEN MEETING
- ☒ RECOMMENDATION FROM THE BOARD OF THE SCHOOL'S AUTHORIZER (CHARTER SCHOOLS)

8. ATTACH PROOF / CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING (NOTE: This requirement applies only to schools / LEAs applying for a waiver of the 180-day requirement):

Under R277-121-2(6) You must hold at least two open and public meetings, held separately from regular board meetings, to engage with stakeholders regarding the waiver request. At least one of the meetings shall be held BEFORE a vote is taken to apply for the waiver, during which the LEA or public school shall: (A) explain the rationale for seeking the waiver; and (B) listen to stakeholder concerns; and (ii) At least one of the meetings shall be held after the decision to apply for the waiver but before the submission of the application, during which the LEA or public school shall: (A) explain the waiver process; and (B) describe plans to address stakeholder concerns.

Please note that the two meetings described in this section may be held electronically.

TIMELINE: First, the LEA must hold a public meeting to discuss the waiver, explain the rationale, and listen to stakeholder concerns. Then, the LEA Board can vote to approve the request for a waiver in an open meeting. Third, the LEA must hold a second public meeting to explain the waiver process and describe plans to address stakeholder concerns. Finally, the LEA can submit the waiver application to USBE, through the AAG]

9. An LEA or public school applying for a waiver shall submit the waiver or waiver renewal, as described in Subsection R277-121-4(1), for the 4-day school week to the Board by April 10 of the school year prior to the proposed change. Is it before April 10 of the year the waiver is planned to go into affect? (NOTE: This requirement applies only to schools / LEAs applying for a waiver of the 180-day requirement)

☐ Yes

☐ No

As you already identified, you must receive approval of your Charter Authorizer as well as your school's governing board. The approvals must take place by a vote of each board in an open meeting. You can attach a copy of the meeting minutes or a letter from the governing board leadership/chair. When the request is presented to USBE, the Board members will be especially interested in why you want the waiver, how it impacts students, and your school's overall student achievement. I will provide the required Agreement once you have provided all of the other required information.

When you have collected the required information, please email it to me. I will then request that the matter be placed on the USBE Law and Licensing Committee Agenda. This meeting is held once a month on the day following the USBE monthly meeting. The Committee will review the request, and if approved, it will be placed on the following month's USBE Meeting Agenda for consideration by the full Board.

City Academy

Our Mission is to graduate responsible, informed citizens who have achieved their best academic success



Dr. Grant Stock
Director / Principal

Mrs. Kellie Lockwood
Principal / SPED Director

Mrs Sara Strickland
School Counselor

Yocelin Ramirez
Office Manager

Ryan Marchant
Business Manager

Utah State Board of Education,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to share an important update regarding the opening of our elementary school.

After thoughtful discussion and careful consideration, our Board of Education, with the recommendation of the administration team, voted on February 18th to have me request from the State Charter School Board that we move the opening of City Academy's elementary school from Fall 2026 to Fall 2027. Here is the links if needed to the Minutes and recordings of February 18th's Board Meeting

- [Minutes From City Academy Board Meeting 2-18-2026](#)
- [Recording of City Academy Board Meeting 2-18-2026](#)

This decision was made with long-term success and sustainability in mind. Here is some of the data we used to make this decision.

- As of February 18th, 2026, we had no one enrolled for the elementary school. Most of this was due to changes we had to make regarding building space and our working with our partners, the Gifted Music School.
- As we talked with our partner organization, the gifted music school, and looked at where we were with planning, building preparation, and marketing, we felt that this was the best alternative to making sure that we have a successful 1st year.
- We also sent out an email to our current families and stakeholders at City Academy with the suggestion that this was the direction we wanted to go. We got no push back or concerns at all.

Some current data that is promising suggests that we are on a good trend are these.

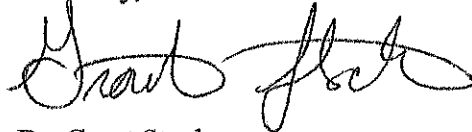
- For our current grades 7-12, our consolidated member report from the October 1st count went from 93 students in FY2025 to 131 students in FY2026. This is over a 40% increase in our student body. Current Statistics are suggesting the same trend for our 7-12 grades.

- Our growth data in all our state tested subjects shows above the state average. This is significant as our students have traditionally been students who are not being successful in their current district and so they come to our school. Our Growth Data was 55.3% in ELA, 53% in Mathematics, 52.4% in Science, and 76.9% in the lowest 25% of our kids.
- At first glance our graduation rate looks like it took a significant drop. However, this is not really the actual case. We had a very small class this year, only 10 seniors. Two of the three students it shows that they did not graduate actually did, they just got coded incorrectly. The third went and got their GED. So, our true graduation rate really should have increased once again and have been 90%. We will not make this coding error again.

Please know that we remain fully committed to opening our elementary school. This additional year will allow us to strengthen our planning, ensure we have the highest-quality staff in place, finalize facilities details, and build a strong academic foundation that reflects the excellence our community expects and deserves. We are confident that this adjustment in timeline will ultimately position the elementary school for a successful and impactful launch.

This next phase is an important part of our long-term vision. We are excited about what lies ahead and deeply appreciate your continued trust, partnership, and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grant Stock", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Grant Stock



Utah State Charter School Board
10008 South Creek Run Way
Sandy, UT 84070

Utah State Board of Education
250 East 500 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

March 18, 2026

To Whom it May Concern,

City Academy submitted a waiver recommendation request to the State Charter School Board on March 12, 2026. City Academy has a large expansion authorization that is set to expire in January of 2027. They are requesting a waiver recommendation from the SCSB to Board Rule 277-552 to allow 7 additional months for them to open in August of 2027.

As the charter school authorizer, we are proud to fully recommend the Utah State Board of Education grant this waiver request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Speicher", is written below the word "Sincerely,".

Dr. Stephanie Speicher
Board Chair
Utah State Charter School Board

Board Meeting 2-18-2026 Agenda

Board Members Present

- Larry Hintze
- Walker Kennedy
- Janice Randall
- Sonia Woodbury
- Steve Foxley
- Taylor Woodbury

I. Board Meeting Welcome

II. Public Comment

- No Public Comments

III. Minutes

A. January 21st, 2026

1. Grant Briefly Reviewed the January 21st Board Minutes. There were no comments or questions.
2. Motioned to approve by Larry Hintze
3. Second by Taylor Woodbury
4. Vote:
 - a) Larry Hintze - Yes
 - b) Walker Kennedy -Yes
 - c) Janice Randall - Yes
 - d) Sonia Woodbury - Yes
 - e) Steve Foxley - Yes
 - f) Taylor Woodbury - Yes

IV. Financials - Ryan Marchant

A. January 2026

1. Talked about student enrollment and ADM
2. Talked about revenue
 - a) Funds drawn down from Grants
3. Allotment around \$145,000 a month
4. Wen and talked about the last page, which is the state allotment memo.

B. Audit Report

1. Governance Letter
 - a) Just mentioned to look at
2. Financial Report
 - a) Talked about the reason for the qualified opinion. Comes down to the ERC Credit and because we showed it as revenue.

- b) Auditors made a qualified opinion because they felt that the IRS could call it back, and then it would be a liability.

V. Director Overview - Grant

A. Elementary Update

1. Discussion on pushing back the opening to Fall 2027

- a) Currently, we do not have any students registered or in the lottery
- b) Feel we got too late a start, should have been where we are now last year.
- c) Some questions were asked by the Board about how the state would respond.
 - (1) I reached out to the state after the Board meeting, and they said we have three years to open
- d) Larry asked about the Gifted Music school and we alked about their support and how that has improved but started off rocky.
- e) Janice Randall asked if it would have an adverse effect on our finances.

(1) We discussed how that might affect this decision.

2. The board voted to postpone the opening of the elementary school till fall 2027.

- a) Larry Hintze made the motion
- b) Steve Foxley made a second

(1) Vote:

- (a) Larry Hintze - Yes
- (b) Walker Kennedy -Yes
- (c) Janice Randall - Yes
- (d) Sonia Woodbury - Yes
- (e) Steve Foxley - Yes
- (f) Taylor Woodbury - Yes

B. Recruitment Grades 7-12

1. Lottery

2025 School Year (Last Year) - 31 in Lottery

2026 School Year - 37 in Lottery

2. New Students Enrolled in ASPIRE

2025 School Year (Last Year) - 8

2026 School Year - 7

3. October 1st Counts Compared to End-of-Year Counts

a) Year	October Count	Ending Count
b) FY26	127	134
c) FY25	93	98
d) FY24	99	86
e) FY23	117	112

f) FY22	111	112
g) FY21	136	123
h) FY22	148	142

C. Attendance

1. Current Student Count 2-13-2027

a) Grade	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
# STD	17	14	25	28	24	26	134

2. FY 26

Grade	95% +	90% +	80% +	70% +	< 70%
7th	69%	19%	6%	0%	0%
8th	58%	25%	8%	0%	0%
9th	83%	4%	17%	0%	0%
10th	50%	27%	10%	13%	0%
11th	54%	38%	8%	0%	0%
12th	57%	25%	11%	7%	0%
Totals	61%	23%	10%	5%	0%
	85%		10%	5%	

3. FY 25

Grade	95% +	90% +	80% +	70% +	< 70%
7th	73%	18%	9%	0%	0%
8th	44%	19%	31%	6%	0%
9th	48%	24%	14%	14%	0%
10th	50%	25%	17%	0%	8%
11th	41%	33%	19%	0%	4%
12th	29%	29%	29%	14%	0%
Totals	47%	26%	19%	5%	2%
	73%		19%	8%	

4. FY 24

Grade	95% +	90% +	80% +	70% +	< 70%
7th	50%	20%	20%	10%	0%
8th	36%	50%	7%	0%	7%
9th	20%	30%	21%	20%	0%
10th	39%	29%	14%	4%	14%
11th	22%	22%	22%	11%	22%
12th	47%	16%	16%	5%	21%
Totals	39%	28%	17%	7%	12%
	67%		17%	19%	

VI. Invite

A. In-Person Board Meeting

1. April 15th - Then come to the committee's night
 - a) Grand Opening of Native Garden

VII. CACC Meeting Update - Grant Stock

A. School Fees Proposed

1. Grant Reviewed
2. It was proposed to change the fees for classes to say "not exceed \$\$\$ per class per semester".

B. School Land Trust Proposal

1. Grant reviewed the proposal
2. No Comments were made on the School Land Trust

VIII. Close

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uetn-org.zoom.us/j/88278513354?pwd=xDfAqbbmAEyMQGBo1aY4xdAevq0ohi.1>

Meeting ID: 882 7851 3354

Passcode: 356722