

Date: May 8, 2026



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*The meeting was conducted in a hybrid format via Zoom and Basement West at USBE.*

**Members Present:** Chair Jennie Earl, Vice Chair Joann Brinton (online), Member Sarah Reale, Member LeAnn Wood (online for part of the meeting), Member Emily Green

**Committee Staff:** Leah Voorhies, Deputy Superintendent; Jennifer Wadsworth, Policy Advisor; Angela Doan, Assistant Attorney General; Andrea Curtin and Amy Magruder, Secretaries; and Amy Hunt, Assistant Superintendent

**Others Present:** Jerry Record; Alex Farah; Meghan Everett; Julie Clark; Cathy Gray; Wendi Morton; Kevin John; Thalea Longhurst; Jennie DeFriez; Harold Chuck Foster; Scott Rosekelley; Milo Maughan; Max Lang; Davina Sauthoff; Cydnee McCarty; Teri Davis; Shanda Stenger; Jodi Parker; Bethany Marker; Krisanne Lewis; Lexi Cunningham, USSA; Christine Mettley, Red Butte Gardens; Edson Barton, YouScience; Nicholus Huffman, Red Butte Gardens; Glynis Bowden, NHMU; and close captioner.

Chair Jennie Earl called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

#### **INFORMATION: Public Comment**

1. Edson Barton spoke in support of Utah's Career and Technical Education program.

#### **7.2 ACTION: Standards Review Process**

**Committee Discussion:** Committee members discussed the standards revision process and proposed possible changes to the process.

**Committee Action:** Member Earl moved to amend the standards revision process to read: "

- Step 6  
Writing Committee: Applicants are invited to apply through a formal public request outlining qualifications and expectations.

Date: May 8, 2026



- Step 7  
Board members may meet with stakeholders and community members while considering recommendations.
- Step 9  
45 days for public feedback with a continuation of the three regional meetings, including one virtual meeting, as currently outlined in law."

Motion passed unanimously with Member Wood absent.

**Committee Action:** Member Brinton moved that the Core Standards cueing rubric only be brought forward for revision consideration after 5 years of implementation.

Motion passed unanimously with Member Wood absent.

**Committee Discussion:** Chair Earl asked the Committee to hold this item for a special meeting so the Committee can do some additional research and work.

**MOTION FOR THE BOARD:** No motion for the Board currently. This item will be moved to an additional meeting on May 18.

### **7.3 ACTION: CTE Audit Report Discussion**

**Committee Discussion:** During its February 5, 2026 meeting, the Board took action to release the [CTE Internal Audit Report](#) and also moved to direct staff to provide the report to the Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee and Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst. In accordance with [Board Policy 2006](#), Board Leadership then assigned the report to the Standards and Assessment Committee, a standing committee of the Board, for further consideration. The audit considered laws, data, and other items related to Career and Technical Education. The Committee brought forward several actions.

**Committee Action:** Member Earl moved that the Board direct staff to:

1. Work to determine what updates need to be made to R277-911 Secondary Career and Technical Education, to address the audit.
2. Work with Utah System of Higher Education (USHE) to coordinate the work to address the audit.

Date: May 8, 2026



Utah State Board of Education

3. Develop a stakeholder workgroup to provide recommendations and consider needs to address the audit.
4. Provide periodic updates to the Committee on the work to address the audit.
5. Improve alignment with workforce needs and consistency within CTE programs and reporting.

Motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION FOR THE BOARD: That the Board direct staff to:**

1. Work to determine what updates need to be made to R277-911 Secondary Career and Technical Education, to address the audit.
2. Work with Utah System of Higher Education (USHE) to coordinate the work to address the audit.
3. Develop a stakeholder workgroup to provide recommendations and consider needs to address the audit.
4. Provide periodic updates to the Committee on the work to address the audit.
5. Improve alignment with workforce needs and consistency within CTE programs and reporting.

**7.4 ACTION: R277-705, Secondary School Completion and Diplomas (Amendment)**

**Committee Discussion:** The proposed amendments are necessary to align the rule with H.B. 502 (School Attendance Modifications), which establishes statewide test-out options for core classes. The amendments recognize test-out as a required statewide pathway for earning credit, require LEAs to award credit based on successful completion of a test-out option, clarify the relationship between test-out options and locally determined demonstrated competency, and align transcript and grading provisions with statutory requirements. Staff presented R277-705, Secondary School Completion and Diplomas, Draft 1, for consideration and approval. Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 3](#); [53E-3-501\(1\)\(b\)](#); [53E-3-401\(4\)](#).

**Committee Action:** Member Earl moved that the Committee add “Beginning in the 2027-2028 school year,” to line 188 and then on line 117, add “in lieu of requirement of days” after “attendance validated program”.

Date: May 8, 2026



Utah State Board of Education

Motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Action:** Board Member Green moved that the Committee approve R277-705, Secondary School Completion and Diplomas, Draft 1, as amended, 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 approve R277-705, Secondary School Completion and Diplomas, Draft 2, on second and final reading.

### **7.5 ACTION: Sensitive Materials Model Policy Update**

**Committee Discussion:** In 2022, the current guidance for LEAs on developing a Model Policy for Sensitive Materials was passed by a vote of the full Board. In June 2024, the [Guidance Document](#) and [Rule R277-628](#) were updated. Passing the new administrative guidance did not repeal the Model Policy. The Model Policy did not undergo any revisions by the Board. In order to bring the [2022 Model Policy](#) up to date with all other guidance, the 2022 version must be repealed, and a new version adopted by the full Board.

**Committee Action:** Member Earl moved to adopt the Member Earl Draft 1 Model Policy.

Motion passed 3 to 2 with Member Reale and Member Wood opposed.

**Committee Action:** Member Earl moved to remove the word “annually” from bullet three in the “instructions” paragraph.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Action:** Member Reale moved to change Subsection 1(b) to read, “[LEA Name] schools operate within limited instructional time, staffing, and budget resources, educators and library personnel have a responsibility to curate materials that directly support curriculum, literacy, and student wellbeing, learning, and interests and that can be delivered appropriately in a school setting; school libraries are curated with a transparent process.”

Motion passed 4 to 1 with Member Green opposed.

**Committee Action:** Member Reale moved to change Subsection 1(d) to read, “This policy prioritizes protecting children from sensitive materials deemed harmful to

Date: May 8, 2026



minors. ~~especially the harmful effects of illicit pornography over other considerations in evaluating instructional material."~~

Motion passed 3 to 2 with Member Earl and Member Green opposed.

**Committee Action:** Member Reale moved to change Subsection 2(a) to read, "The library professional or designated [LEA Name] specialist trained on this policy will initially review and ~~recommend~~ select all library materials under the direction of the local board, including gifts and donations, consistent with this policy using the following criteria:

1. Create a collection that adheres to Utah law.
2. Seek recommendations and work collaboratively with parents, patrons, others in the school community during the selection process ~~and making new acquisitions open for public review and input for 30 days prior to making purchases;~~ and
3. Create a collection that reflects diversity of ideas;~~;~~ and
4. ~~create a collection that adheres to the law."~~

Motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Action:** Member Wood moved to amend to leave in the words "and making new acquisitions open for public review"

Motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Discussion:** Chair Earl recommended moving this agenda item to a special meeting on May 18 to finish this discussion.

**MOTION FOR THE BOARD:** No motion for the Board currently. This item will be moved to an additional meeting on May 18.

#### **7.6 ACTION: R277-326, Early Literacy Coaches (Amendment)**

**Committee Discussion:** The proposed amendments are necessary to align the rule with S.B. 241 (Early Literacy), which restructures the delivery of early literacy coaching statewide. The amendments shift responsibility for providing, training, and assigning literacy coaches from the Superintendent to regional education service agencies and school districts, remove provisions related to centralized assignment and prioritization of coaches, update definitions and responsibilities to

Date: May 8, 2026



Utah State Board of Education

reflect the new locally administered model, align the rule with statutory requirements related to science of reading instruction and professional learning, and incorporate a future requirement for literacy coaches to support integration of social studies content into literacy instruction beginning in the 2028–2029 school year, as required by H.B. 312 (School Curriculum and Standards Modifications). Staff presented R277-326, Early Literacy Coaches, Draft 1, for consideration and approval. Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 3](#); [53E-3-401\(4\)](#); 53F-5-214.

**Committee Action:** Member Earl moved that the committee amend line 33 to replace “Superintendent” with “the Board”.

Motion passed unanimously with Member Wood absent.

**Committee Action:** Member Earl moved that the committee amend line 34 to read: “(b) An early literacy coach shall meet minimum qualifications established by the Board, including:

- (i) training in the science of reading;
- (ii) training in adult learning theory;
- (iii) data analysis training and experience, including in the benchmark reading assessment;
- (iv) experience providing professional learning to adults;
- (v) a master’s degree in education is preferred; and
- (vi) a minimum of five years of elementary teaching experience is preferred.”

Motion passed unanimously with Member Wood absent.

**Committee Action:** Member Reale moved that the Committee approve R277-326, Early Literacy Coaches, Draft 1, as amended, on first reading and forward to the Board for approval on second and final reading.

Motion passed unanimously with Member Wood absent.

**MOTION FOR THE BOARD:** That the Board approve R277-326, Early Literacy Coaches, Draft 2, on second and final reading.

Date: May 8, 2026

**7.7 ACTION: R277-917, Gold Medal Schools Pilot Program (New)**

**Committee Discussion:** This rule is proposed to implement H.B. 36 (2026 General Session), which created the Gold Medal Schools Pilot Program, and to establish procedures and requirements for the administration of the program, including eligibility, application, selection, funding, and reporting. The rule also reflects a statutory amendment to Section 53F-5-224 that conditions implementation of the program on the Department of Health and Human Services receiving sufficient federal funding. This new rule establishes definitions consistent with statute, creates an application and selection process for eligible schools, establishes criteria for participation and for earning a gold medal recognition award, defines allowable uses and distribution of program funds including administrative cost limitations, establishes reporting, monitoring, and accountability requirements for participating schools, and specifies that program implementation is contingent upon the receipt of sufficient federal funding by the Department of Health and Human Services. Staff presented R277-917, Gold Medal Schools Pilot Program, Draft 1, for consideration and approval. Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 3](#); [53E-3-401](#); 53F-5-224; [63G-3](#).

**Committee Action:** Member Earl moved that the committee adopt the Member Earl Draft 1, R277-917, Gold Medal Schools Pilot Program.

Motion passed unanimously with Member Wood absent.

**Committee Action:** Member Green moved to table this item until the next Standards and Assessment meeting.

Motion passed unanimously with Member Wood absent.

**MOTION FOR THE BOARD:** No motion for the Board currently. This item will be moved to an additional meeting on May 18.

**7.8 ACTION: R277-923, American Indian and Alaskan Native Education State Plan Pilot Programs (Amendment & Continuation)**

**Committee Discussion:** The proposed amendments are necessary to align the rule with H.B. 75 (American Indian and Alaska Native Education Amendments), which updates statutory language and requires adoption of a statewide education plan. The amendments update terminology to reflect current statutory language, incorporate references to the American Indian and Alaska Native education state

Date: May 8, 2026



Utah State Board of Education

plan, and align grant program administration with statutory requirements. R277-923 is soon approaching its five-year review. Staff recommended continuation of the rule. Staff presented R277-923, American Indian and Alaskan Native Education State Plan Pilot Programs, Draft 1, for consideration and approval. Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 3](#); [53F-5-603](#); [53E-3-401\(4\)](#).

**Committee Action:** Member Green moved that the Committee continue and approve R277-923, American Indian and Alaskan Native Education State Plan Pilot Programs, Draft 1, on first reading and forward to the Board for continuation and approval on second and final reading.

Motion passed unanimously with Member Wood absent.

**MOTION FOR THE BOARD:** That the Board continue and approve R277-923, American Indian and Alaskan Native Education State Plan Pilot Programs, Draft 1, on second and final reading.

#### **7.9 ACTION: R277-404, Requirements for Assessments of Student Achievement (Amendment & Continuation)**

**Committee Discussion:** The proposed amendments are necessary to align the rule with H.B. 502 (School Attendance Modifications), which establishes statewide test-out options for core classes. The amendments clarify the administration of assessments associated with test-out options, align procedures, timelines, and security requirements with existing statewide assessment practices, and ensure consistency between test-out assessments and current assessment administration policies. R277-404 is soon approaching its five-year review. Staff recommended continuation of the rule. Staff presented R277-404, Requirements for Assessments of Student Achievement, Draft 1, for consideration and approval. Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 3](#); [53E-4-302](#); [53E-3-401\(4\)](#); [53G-6-803\(9\)\(b\)](#).

Because of time restraints this agenda item will be moved to the May 18 agenda.

**MOTION FOR THE BOARD:** No motion for the Board currently. This item will be moved to an additional meeting on May 18.

Date: May 8, 2026

Utah State Board of Education

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**7.10 ACTION: Parental Exclusion From State Assessments Form: 2026-2027**

**Committee Action:** [53G-6-803\(9\)\(a\)](#) establishes the requirement that the Utah State Board of Education establish a statewide procedure for excusing a student from state assessments, which includes creating, maintaining and publishing a list of eligible state assessments. To maintain the Parental Exclusion From State Assessments form, staff regularly review and make recommended changes to the form as necessary. Staff recommended some updates to the forms including the removal of the Utah Aspire Plus assessments as a result of the passage of [S.B. 39](#) in 2025.

**Committee Action:** Member Green moved that the Committee approve the Parental Exclusion from State Assessments forms, Draft 1, and forward to the Board for final approval.

Motion passed unanimously with Member Wood absent.

**MOTION FOR THE BOARD:** That the Board approve the Parental Exclusion from State Assessments forms, Draft 1.

**7.11 ACTION: Targeted Standards Review Secondary Social Studies**

**Committee Action:** Social Studies Standards need modifications to meet expectations set forth in [H.B. 312](#). After a review of the requirements, current standards, and current draft standards, staff determined select areas for secondary coursework. The required changes meet the parameters of a targeted review, set forth in [Board Policy 3002](#). Staff recommended a targeted review to meet the implementation deadline of fall 2028.

Because of time restraints this item will be moved to the May 18 agenda.

**MOTION FOR THE BOARD:** No motion for the Board currently. This item will be moved to an additional meeting on May 18.

**7.12 ACTION: iSEE Science Outreach Organizations 4-year Program Report**

**Committee Discussion:** Board Rule [R277-443-7](#), Distribution of Money to Science Outreach Organizations, iSEE Program requirements specify that every four years the Superintendent will report the program evaluation results to the Board and

Date: May 8, 2026



make any recommendations. The presentation provided during the Committee gave an overview and evaluation results.

**Committee Action:** Member Green moved that the Committee approve the iSEE report and evaluation, Draft 1, and forward to the Board for final approval.

Motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION FOR THE BOARD:** That the Board accept the iSEE report and evaluation.

### **7.13 ACTION: Secondary Counselor to Student Ratio Report Approval**

**Committee Discussion:** R277-462-6, School Counselor to Student Ratio, mandates that USBE staff gather and report information on counselor-to-student ratios for LEAs with approved School Counseling Programs that receive funding. The report is based on data collected as of October 1, 2024, including student enrollment and licensed school counselor FTE counts in CACTUS. LEAs that do not meet the recommended school counselor-to-student ratio of 1:350 or better, on average, are required to submit a plan detailing how they intend to achieve this ratio.

1. 72 LEAs with CTE add-on/School Counseling Program funding
  - a. 41 school districts have approved School Counseling Programs
  - b. 31 charter schools have approved School Counseling Programs
2. 72 LEAs currently meet the student to school counselor ratio (-0.25 allowance)
3. Statewide LEA Secondary School Counselor Ratio (7-12) of approved school counseling programs is 1:287.85.

**Committee Action:** Member Earl moved that the Committee approve the 2025-2026 Secondary Counselor to Student ratio report and send to the Board for final approval.

Motion passed unanimously with Member Wood absent.

**MOTION FOR THE BOARD:** That the Board accept the 2025-2026 Secondary Counselor to Student ratio report.

Date: May 8, 2026



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#### **8.14 INFORMATION: P-12 Physical Education Standards Revision Update**

**Committee Discussion:** The Teaching and Learning Physical Education team will provide an update on the progress of the P-12 Physical Education Standards Revision Process as required in the Board Approved Standards Revision Process.

Because of time restraints this item will be moved to the May 18 agenda.

**MOTION FOR THE BOARD:** No motion for the Board. This was an information item.

#### **Adjournment:**

**Committee Action:** Member Reale moved to adjourn the meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.