

Date: August 7, 2026



Utah State Board of Education

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

Members Present: Chair Jennie Earl, Vice Chair Joann Brinton, Member Sarah Reale, Member LeAnn Wood, Member Emily Green

Committee Staff: Leah Voorhies, Deputy Superintendent; Jennifer Wadsworth, Policy Advisor; Lora Cooper, Assistant Attorney General; Jeremy Shaw, Assistant Attorney General; Andrea Curtin, Secretary; Aaron Wilson, Assistant Superintendent; and Amy Hunt, Assistant Superintendent.

Others Present: Jerry Record; Meghan Everett; Davina Sauthoff; Matt Winters; Thalea Longhurst; Kimberly Loveland; Mike Spencer; Jennie DeFriez; Molly Basham; Melissa Garber; April Painter; Liz Bunker; Max lang; Shanda Stenger; Cathy Gray; Julie Clark; Danielle Pedersen; Denice Maedgen; Aaron Brough; Royce Van Tassell; Sakina Steflike, AAG's office; and close captioner.

Chair Jennie Earl called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

INFORMATION: Public Comment

1. Jessica Horton, spoke via Zoom to item 1.2 ACTION: Board Review of Appeals on LEA Sensitive Materials Decisions.
2. Assistant Superintendent Toone, Davis School District, spoke in-person to item 1.2 ACTION: Board Review of Appeals on LEA Sensitive Materials Decisions.
3. Michael Erickson, spoke in-person to item 1.3 ACTION: American Constitutional Government and Citizenship Standards Review.

5.2 ACTION: Board Review of Appeals on LEA Sensitive Materials Decisions

Committee Discussion: Rule R277-123 establishes the official process for members of the public to report alleged violations of statute and board rule within the public education system. Specifically, Section R277-123-10 details the framework for the Board Review of Appeals on LEA Sensitive Materials Decisions. In alignment with the statutory requirements governing instructional and library materials in Utah Code § 53G-10-103, this administrative rule allows an individual with standing (such as a parent or student within the affected LEA) to formally

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request a state-level review within 30 days of an LEA's final decision regarding a sensitive materials challenge. Under the specific parameters of this rule, the scope of the State Board's review is narrowly focused: the Board's legal counsel evaluates the submission strictly to determine whether the LEA violated the operational and procedural requirements outlined in the LEA's own adopted sensitive materials appeal policy. If procedural violations are substantiated, the Board maintains the authority to return the appeal to the local education agency with corrective orders or implementation recommendations.

Committee Action: Member Reale moved that the Committee recommends that the Board find the LEA did not follow the proper procedure in placing the item on the Consent agenda and that it be returned to the LEA to place the item on a LEA Board agenda as its own item for consideration.

Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD: That the Board find the LEA did not follow the proper procedure in placing the item on the Consent agenda and that it be returned to the LEA to place the item on a LEA Board agenda as its own item for consideration.

5.3 ACTION: American Constitutional Government and Citizenship Standards Review

Committee Discussion: Following public comment, the Writing Committee revised the American Constitutional Government and Citizenship Standards and provided this updated draft for consideration and approval. According to the agreed upon adoption timeline, this draft is considered in the Standards and Assessment Committee before forwarding to the Board for final approval.

Committee Action: Member Earl moved that the Committee send Committee member suggestions to the UVU Civic Thought and Leadership Initiative (CTLI) for consideration as red-lined amendments to the proposed standards related to current law (S.B. 268, H.B. 312) from 2026 and then return to the Committee for review.

Motion passed unanimously.

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MOTION FOR THE BOARD: No motion for the Board currently. The standards will be brought back to the Committee after the UVU Civic Thought and Leadership Initiative (CTLI) considers proposed amendments.

5.4 ACTION: R277-117, Utah State Board Education Ethics Amendments (New)

Committee Discussion: During the 2026 General Session, the Legislature passed H.B. 194 Utah State Board of Education Ethics Amendments, which enacted Title 53E, Chapter 3, Part 13, establishing a comprehensive ethics framework for members of the Utah State Board of Education. The legislation creates an Independent Ethics Commission, establishes a code of official conduct, outlines procedures for ethics complaints and disciplinary actions, and requires annual ethics training and conflict of interest disclosures for Board members.

R277-117 is proposed to implement the administrative responsibilities assigned to the Utah State Board of Education under Title 53E, Chapter 3, Part 13. The rule establishes procedures for administering the Board's ethics program, including ethics training, conflict of interest disclosure administration, and other Board responsibilities necessary to support implementation of the statutory ethics framework. The rule also provides an overview of the Independent Ethics Commission and its role under state law while deferring substantive complaint and disciplinary procedures to statute. Staff presented R277-117, Utah State Board of Education Ethics Amendments, Draft 1, for consideration and approval.

Committee Action: Member Reale moved to add "Board Bylaws," on line 40 after "Board rule".

Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Action: Member Wood moved that the Committee approve R277-117, Utah State Board of Education Ethics Amendments, Draft 1 as amended, on first reading and forward to the Board for approval on second and final reading.

Motion passed 4-1. Member Green abstained.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD: That the Board approve R277-117, Utah State Board of Education Ethics Amendments, Draft 2, on second and final reading.

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5.5 ACTION: R277-631, Student Toilet Training Requirements (Amendment)

Committee Discussion: During the 2026 General Session, the Legislature passed S.B. 58, Public School Attendance Amendments. In addition to making changes related to student attendance, the bill repealed the Board's previous rulemaking authority regarding student toilet training and enacted Section 53G-7-230, requiring the Board to establish rules governing personal care independence requirements for public school enrollment beginning with the 2026-2027 school year. The amendments make the changes necessary to align Rule R277-631 with S.B. 58. The rule is updated to reflect the Legislature's new personal care independence requirements, revise statutory references, update the implementation date, conform the disability exception to statute, and make technical amendments throughout. Staff presented R277-631, Student Toilet Training Requirements, Draft 1, for consideration and approval.

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [Article X, Section 3](#); [53E-3-401\(4\)](#); [53G-7-203\(6\)](#)

Committee Action: Member Brinton moved that the Committee approve R277-631, Student Toilet Training Requirements, 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 approve R277-631, Student Toilet Training Requirements, Draft 1, on second and final reading.

5.6 ACTION: R277-633, Dyslexia Screener (New)

Committee Discussion: During the 2026 General Session, the Legislature passed 2nd Substitute H.B. 393, Early Intervention for Dyslexia Amendments, which created the Dyslexia Screening Pilot Program and directed the Utah State Board of Education to adopt administrative rules necessary to administer the pilot. This new rule implements the Dyslexia Screening Pilot Program by establishing application procedures, screening and reporting requirements, criteria for approving dyslexia screeners, and administrative requirements for participating LEAs, as required by

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Section 53F-5-224. Staff presented R277-633, Dyslexia Screener, Draft 1, for consideration and approval.

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [53E-3-401](#); [53F-5-226](#)

Committee Action: Member Earl moved that the Committee approve R277-633, Dyslexia Screener, 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 approve R277-633, Dyslexia Screener, Draft 1, on second and final reading.

5.7 ACTION: R277-914, Career and Technical Student Organizations (Continuation)

Committee Discussion: Rule R277-914 establishes requirements for the oversight and fiscal accountability of Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) recognized by the Utah State Board of Education. As part of the Board's required five-year review of administrative rules, the rule was reviewed to ensure it remains consistent with current statute, Board authority, and agency practice. The review determined that the rule continues to provide appropriate governance for CTSOs while supporting the Board's administration of career and technical education programs under Section 53E-3-507. The proposed amendments update Rule R277-914 as part of the required five-year review. The amendments revise and clarify definitions, improve organization and readability, update cross-references, and make technical and conforming changes throughout the rule. The amendments do not make substantive changes to the oversight, governance, or fiscal accountability requirements for Career and Technical Student Organizations. Staff presented R277-914, Career and Technical Student Organizations, Draft 1, for consideration and approval.

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [53E-3-507\(1\)](#); [53E-3-507\(3\)](#); [53E-3-401\(4\)](#)

Committee Action: Member Earl moved that the Committee continue R277-914, Career and Technical Student Organizations, Draft 1 and forward to the Board for approval on second and final reading.

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Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD: That the Board continue R277-914, Career and Technical Student Organizations, Draft 1 on second and final reading.

5.8 ACTION: R277-727, School Meal Programs (Amendment)

Committee Discussion: HB 100 (2025 General Session) established new requirements related to reduced-price lunches and state reimbursement. As LEAs began implementing the legislation, USBE received questions regarding reimbursement procedures, meal debt communications, and implementation responsibilities. These amendments update Rule R277-727 to provide additional clarity and align the rule with current statutory requirements. The proposed amendments reorganize Rule R277-727 to improve clarity for LEAs by separating Superintendent administrative responsibilities from LEA implementation requirements. The amendments also align the rule with Section 53F-2-422, enacted by H.B. 100 (2025 General Session), by clarifying reduced-price lunch reimbursement procedures, meal debt communications, and LEA responsibilities while preserving existing administration of school meals program revenues under Section 53E-3-510. Staff presented R277-727, School Meal Programs, Draft 1, for consideration and approval.

Committee Action: Member Brinton moved that the Committee approve R277-727, School Meal Programs, 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 approve R277-727, School Meal Programs, Draft 1, on second and final reading.

5.9 INFORMATION: Independent Review of Mathematics Standards Presentation

Committee Discussion: The Utah State Board of Education approved an independent review of the Draft Utah Mathematics Standards. The independent reviewers presented an overview of the results of that independent review.

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

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5.10 ACTION: General Financial Literacy Standards Update

Committee Discussion: In accordance with [53E-3-505](#) and [R277-704](#), the state board is required to convene the General Financial Literacy (GFL) Task Force at least once every three years to examine and recommend adjustments to the strands and standards of the GFL course. The GFL strands and standards were most recently updated in 2023.

In the March 2026 Utah State Board of Education meeting, the board was notified that staff were beginning the USBE Single Course Standards Revision Process for the General Financial Literacy course standards. A 30-day window was available for board members to submit suggestions to the writing committee.

The writing committee was convened to consider appropriate laws, changes to coursework, Board member suggestions, field recommendations, and other relevant information necessary to update these standards.

Revised standards (draft 1) are now available for the Standards and Assessment Committee to review and release for a 30-day public comment period. Board members may submit recommendations as part of public comment.

At the end of the 30-day comment period, the writing committee and staff will review comments received and make final draft modifications.

We anticipate having the final draft ready for the Standards and Assessment Committee to review in the November meeting.

Committee Action: Member Wood moved that the Committee approve the release of the General Financial Literacy Standards Draft 1, for a 30-day public comment period.

Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD: That the Board release of the General Financial Literacy Standards Draft 1, for a 30-day public comment period.

5.11 ACTION: R277-702, Procedures for the Utah High School Completion Diploma (Amendment and Continuation)

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Committee Discussion: R277-702 is soon approaching its five-year review. Staff recommended continuation of the rule. Additionally, staff recommended removing the oversight category and updating Section 4 to clarify when non-resident students can take a high school equivalency exam in Utah, and to clarify when Utah residents can complete a high school equivalency exam online. Staff presented R277-702, Draft 1, for consideration and approval.

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 3](#); [53E-3-501\(1\)\(b\)](#); [53E-3-401](#)

Committee Action: Member Wood moved that the Committee continue and approve R277-702, Procedures for the High School Completion Diploma, 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 continue and approve R277-702, Procedures for the High School Completion Diploma, Draft 1, on second and final reading.

5.12 INFORMATION: Professional Outreach Programs (POPs) Program Review R277-444

Committee Discussion: Board Rule [R277-444-7 \(3a\)](#) Distribution of Money to Arts Organizations, POPs Program Requirements specify that at least once every four years the Superintendent will report the program evaluation results to the Board. This presentation provides a program overview and evaluation results.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD: This was an information item. There is no motion for the Board.

1.13 INFORMATION: AI in Education

Committee Discussion: The Committee understands this is a quickly changing area of education and asked staff to keep this topic on the Standards and Assessment Committee as a quarterly agenda item for the foreseeable future.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD: This was an information item. There is no motion for the Board.

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Adjournment:

Committee Action: Member Brinton moved to adjourn the meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:06 p.m.