

Accelerating Utah's High School Transformation

A Strategic Motion to Join the High School Transformation State Network (2026-2028)

K-12

Higher Ed

Workforce



Waypoint Tracker



Waypoint 1: Utah's Momentum

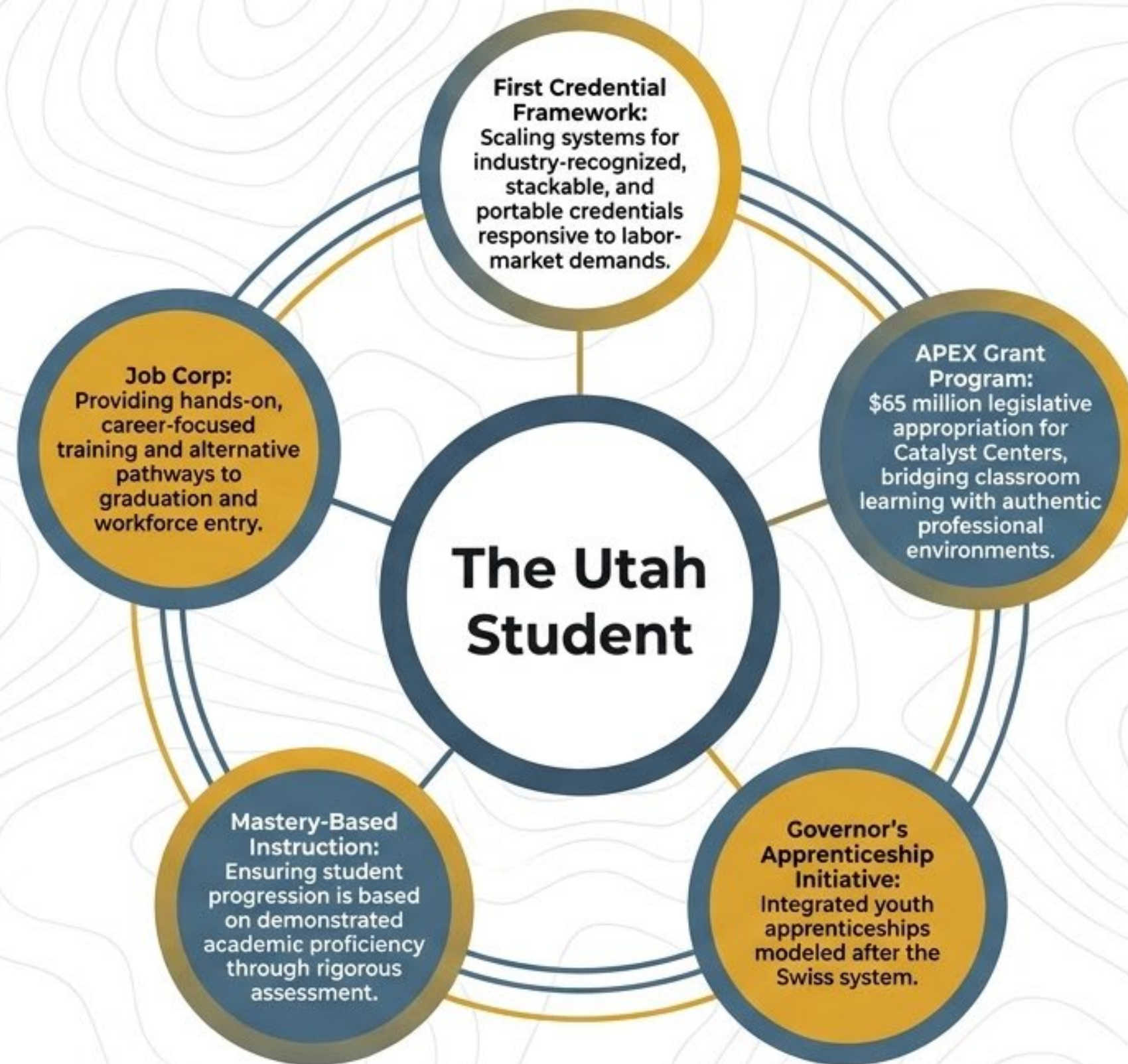
The USBE and Legislature have built a robust foundation of innovative high school pathways. We are already leading.

Waypoint 2: The Catalyst

Joining the High School Transformation State Network (HSTSN) acts as a **force multiplier**, bringing **national expertise** and **\$10,000 in funding** to scale our existing initiatives.

Waypoint 3: The Motion

Today's objective is to formally adopt the **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** between USBE and NASBE and elect our **preferred funding mechanism** to officially begin this two-year partnership.



Utah is already building a resilient talent engine. The HSTSN will help us braid these initiatives into a seamless K-Career pathway.

Friction vs. Focus

Systemic Friction Points	Target Insights Needed
 Cultural Inertia: Attachment to traditional, time-based models over high-achievement innovative frameworks.	 Standardized evidence on what parents and students actually want from alternative high school pathways.
 Communication Gaps: Families lack transparent information on the economic ROI of pathways.	 Longitudinal data on the actual outcomes of different educational pathways and career trades.
 Credential Rigor & Alignment: Legacy CTE certificates don't always map to high-demand labor needs.	 Clear data on course standardization and the impact of grade inflation vs. true graduation achievement.
 Educator Readiness: Teacher prep historically focuses on traditional models rather than mastery-based progression.	 Evidence-based strategies to integrate rigorous academic standards with practical skills training.

The Network Engine



What it is: A two-year partnership (Sept 2026 - April 2028) supported by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

Partners: NASBE, KnowledgeWorks, Transcend, and Education Reimagined.

Goal: Elevate USBE as a respected voice in aligning K-12, Higher Ed, and Industry to decrease absenteeism, eliminate duplication, and build evidence-based initiatives.

The Core Traction Team



The Partnership Ledgership Ledger

NASBE Delivers (The Get)



Flexible financial support: \$10,000 in flexible financial support.



Network convenings: 2 in-person and 6 virtual network convenings (including travel/lodging for 3 team members at the Oct 26 Baltimore Kick-off).



Opportunity Scan: A structured Opportunity Scan mapped against eight systemic change recommendations.



Technical assistance & expertise: Dedicated technical assistance, research, and connections to national subject matter experts.

USBE Commits (The Give)



Cross-functional team: Maintain a cross-functional state team led by a state board member.



Data sharing: Share relevant state plans, policies, and data for the Opportunity Scan interviews.



Progress calls: Participate in bimonthly progress calls with NASBE.

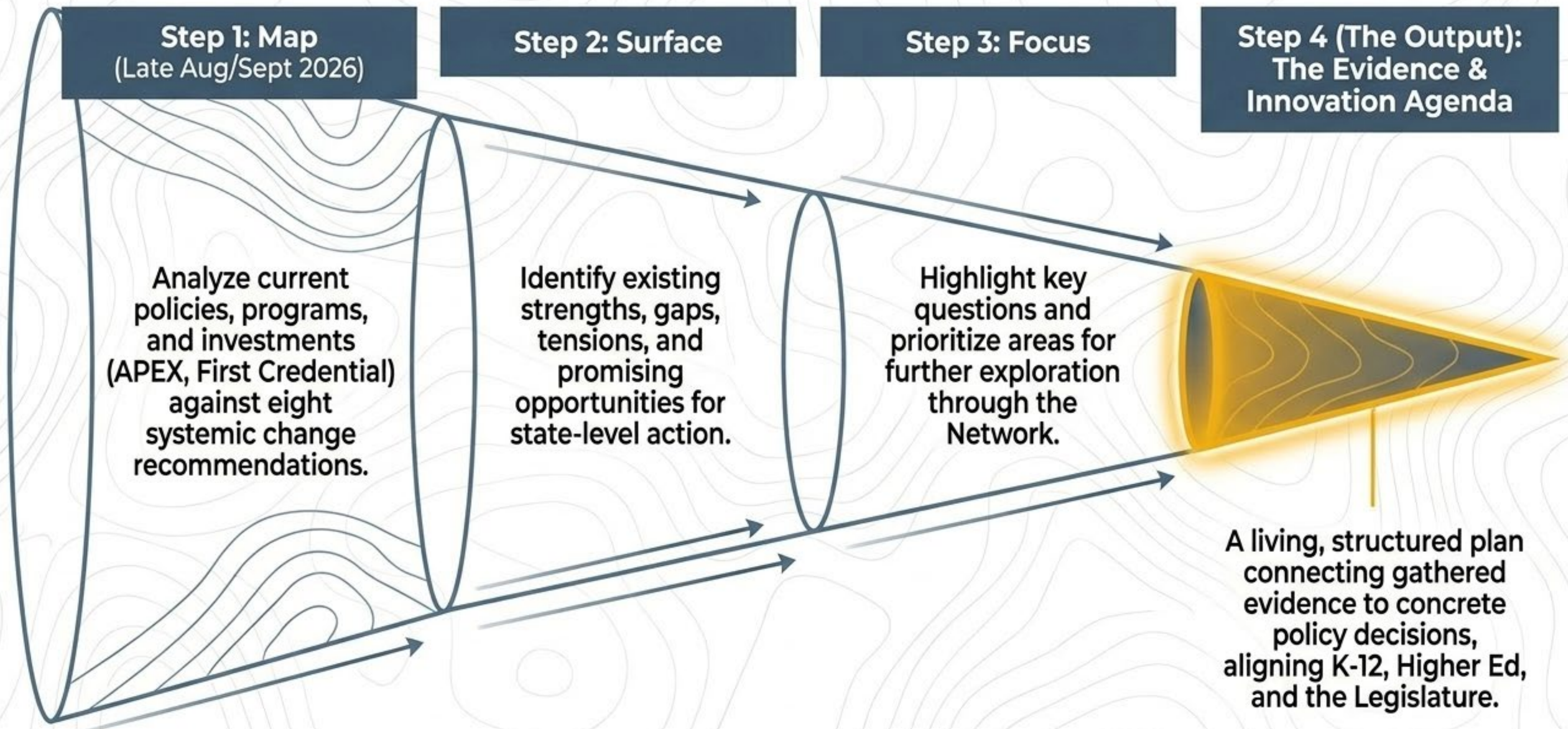


Stakeholder engagement: Convene state and local stakeholders to build the agenda.



Impact Report: Submit a final Impact Report by April 14, 2028.

Convergence Funnel



Flight Path

August 25/28, 2026:

Virtual Network
Orientation
(Project timeline,
MOU review)

**Late Aug/Early
Sept 2026:**
Opportunity Scan
Initial Interviews

**October 25-26,
2026:**
Network Kick-off in
Baltimore, MD

April 14, 2028:
Final Impact
Report Due

September 1, 2026:

Official HSTSN
Start Date

October 1, 2026:

Deadline to return
signed MOU &
Funding Election

Ongoing 2027:

Bimonthly NASBE calls,
Focus Groups, and
Agenda Drafting

April 30, 2028:

Project Conclusion

The Funding Election Matrix

State Mini-Grant	Consultant Wallet
The Mechanism: \$10k disbursed directly to USBE in two \$5k installments.	The Mechanism: \$10k credit held by NASBE for direct payment of technical assistance.
Administrative Requirement: High. Requires USBE to manage funds, issue RFPs for consultants, and submit financial accounting records.	Administrative Requirement: Low. Zero funds enter state accounting; no internal financial reporting required.
Strategic Fit (Our Goal): Broad use, but slower deployment due to procurement friction.	Strategic Fit (Our Goal): Perfect fit. Allows immediate deployment of external facilitators for student/parent focus groups.

The Consultant Wallet Mechanism

Step 3: Direct Compensation (Bypass Friction)

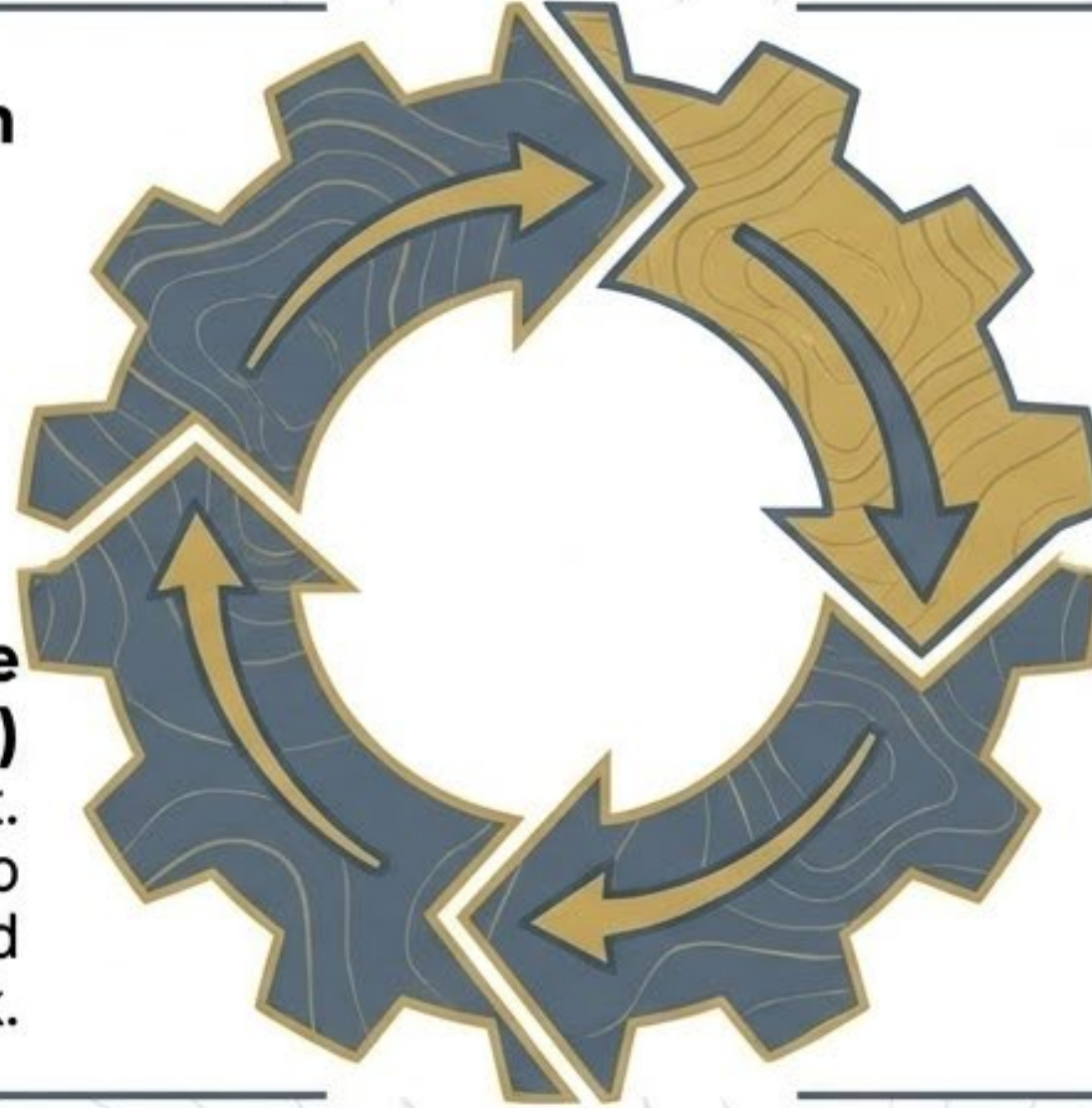
The project partner delivers the service to Utah. NASBE pays the expert directly from our \$10,000 credit pool.

Step 2: Match & Scope (NASBE)

USBE submits the request. NASBE matches the request to an expert project partner and confirms the scope of work.

Step 1: Identify Need (USBE)

USBE identifies a specific technical assistance need (e.g., We need facilitation services for parent/student focus groups to understand pathway hesitation).



Key Takeaway: The wallet maximizes speed and impact by completely bypassing state accounting and procurement friction, allowing us to focus on the work, not the paperwork.



The Motion Before the Board

To authorize participation in the High School Transformation State Network and execute the Memorandum of Understanding.

- ☐ Approve the MOU formally partnering USBE with NASBE for 2026-2028.
- ☐ Authorize the selection of the Consultant Wallet under Schedule A to fund focus group facilitation.
- ☐ Direct leadership to return the signed agreement to Paolo DeMaria (NASBE) by October 1, 2026.

“By participating, we gain the insights necessary to sustain our transformation efforts and ensure that every Utah student graduates ready for the future.”