



Meeting Minutes

Utah State Board of Education

A regular meeting of the Utah State Board of Education was held on July 9, 2026, and was scheduled to start at 1:00 PM. Chair Hymas and Vice Chairs Bollinger and Wood presided. As authorized by Utah Code Section 52-4, this meeting was held at the Zermatt Resort, 784 W Resort Drive, Midway, UT 84049. The public can retrieve the audio through the Public Meeting Notice website.

Members Present

Board Chair Matt Hymas	Member Sarah Reale
First Vice-Chair Amanda Bollinger	Member Jennie Earl
Second Vice-Chair LeAnn Wood	Member Rod Hall
Member Joseph Kerry - online	Member Christina Boggess
Member Carol Lear	Member Joann Brinton
Member Erin Longacre	Member Cole Kelley
Member Cindy Davis	

Members Absent

Member Green

Executive Staff Present

Leah Voorhies, Deputy Superintendent
Scott Jones, Deputy Superintendent
Elisse Newey, Deputy Superintendent
Kelsey James, Board Communications Coordinator

Minutes were taken by:

Cybil Prideaux, Executive Assistant

Others Present

Darin Underwood, Deputy Auditor General; Kade Minchey, Auditor General; and Tanner Cox, Lead Auditor.

Opening Business

Chair Hymas called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM.

Welcome

Purpose of the convening and opening business

Mission and Vision

Identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT)

STRATEGIC PLAN

The Utah State Board of Education

is responsible for general oversight and supervision of the public education system, as established by the Utah Constitution. With an appreciation for Utah's pioneer heritage, we look ahead — working as policymakers and educators committed to support parents in their central role as their children's first teachers.

MISSION

Academic and organizational excellence in Utah education for an elevated, educated citizenry

- Sets academic standards
- Protects information systems
- Manages public education funds
- Directs transparent operations
- Develops policy for education
- Advocates for Utah students
- Provides support and oversight of schools

OUR VISION

To open doors of opportunity for all Utah children to:

- Participate in civic responsibilities
- Uphold and strengthen our constitutional republic
- Provide for themselves and their families
- Engage in post-secondary opportunities

- Pursue personal goals
- Embody strong moral and social values

GOALS

ELEVATE STUDENT LEARNING

- Establish clear, concise, and rigorous academic standards that elevate knowledge, skills, and expectations for students and educators, ensuring high-quality learning and parental accessibility.
- Ensure assessment systems will evaluate content knowledge to inform instruction and provide parents with personalized feedback that supports them in their primary responsibility for the education of their children.
- Enhance instruction by identifying, supporting, and scaling effective teaching practices that optimize student learning and academic outcomes.
- Support initiatives and interventions that enable educators to close individual learning gaps by equipping all learners in meeting or exceeding grade-level proficiency.

PROMOTE EDUCATOR QUALITY AND EFFECTIVENESS

- Establish systems that identify and support highly effective educators and empower them to share best practices with educators statewide.
- Streamline licensing pathways to attract and retain highly qualified professionals to public education.
- Enhance meaningful professional development and evidence-based administrator and educator training to strengthen leadership, teaching, and improve student outcomes.

OPTIMIZE OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Clearly communicate required expectations.
- Strengthen risk assessment and mitigation processes to improve internal controls.
- Support and monitor entities under the Board's supervision to ensure compliance.
- Direct performance improvement steps

OLAG Governance vs. Management

Best Practices Handbook for Student Achievement in Public Education was presented by Darin Underwood, Deputy Auditor General; Kade Minchey, Auditor General; and Tanner Cox, Lead Auditor.

SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

TO: THE UTAH STATE LEGISLATURE AND STATE OF UTAH EDUCATIONAL LEADERS

Transmitted herewith is our report:

“The Best Practice Handbook for Student Achievement in Public Education” [Report #2025-13]. This handbook contains the best practices LEAs should consider adopting to improve student learning and academic achievement. There are three distinct sections within the handbook that cover the three basic levels of an LEA:

- Section 1 discusses the best practices related to school boards and their role as an oversight body.
- Section 2 discusses the best practices for LEA central offices and how they can support school improvement.
- Section 3 discusses the best practices for school principals and how they oversee and guide teacher performance.

As LEAs adopt these best practices, they will create education systems that are aligned around the clear goal of student learning and academic achievement. Each section has numerous examples as well as questions and resources to help LEAs apply these practices. We encourage LEA leaders throughout the state to carefully consider this handbook, identify ways they can improve, and apply the practices to create strong and effective educational systems.

Governance Role Wrap-Up

Develop an action plan by asking:

- How can we use our Strengths to capture Opportunities?
- How can our Strengths minimize Threats?
- What do we need to fix regarding our Weaknesses to prevent new Threats?

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

The executive assistant took the meeting minutes.
The minutes were approved August 6, 2026.