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MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Utah State Board of Education

FROM: Rich Nye, Deputy Superintendent
Student Achievement

DATE: November 3-4, 2016

DISCUSSION/ACTION: LEA Pilot of Standards

Background:

Utah Code 53A-1-402.6 states “In establishing minimum standards related to curriculum and instruction requirements under Section 53A-1-402, the State Board of Education shall, in consultation with local school boards, school superintendents, teachers, employers, and parents implement core standards for Utah public schools that will enable students to, among other objectives: (i) communicate effectively, both verbally and through written communication; (ii) apply mathematics; and (iii) access, analyze, and apply information.”

Board Strategic Plan:

This item supports the following imperative(s) and/or strategies in the Board’s Strategic Plan:

Quality Education: The Utah State Board of Education will place focus on intended learning outcomes as a key to high student achievement.

Educational options: Empower stakeholders with information to decide how, what, and where students are taught.

Anticipated Action:

The Board will discuss the possibility of a waiver to allow LEAs to pilot standards other than Utah’s adopted State Standards. Through the waiver process, LEAs would identify the new standards and provide justification for the proposed standards. LEAs would also need to provide testing that assesses competency to the new standards. The Board will consider directing staff in forming a rule to allow LEAs to receive a waiver from the Utah State Standards and statewide assessments.

Contact: Rich Nye, 801-538-7515