

# UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

# EXCELLENCE FOR EACH STUDENT

## PURPOSE: EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

The foundation of the Utah public education system is to provide an opportunity for educational excellence for each Utah student. This requires advocacy, focus, and prioritization of effort.

## IMPERATIVES

### I. Educational Equity

*The Utah State Board of Education will set the general statewide conditions in which each student can excel, including equity of educational opportunities and culturally responsive practices to promote each student's academic success and well-being. Resources and Board policies and practices will be aligned to high expectations and successful outcomes for each student.*

### II. Quality Learning

*The Utah State Board of Education will place focus on intended learning outcomes as a key to high student achievement with the understanding that high quality instruction is central to that ideal.*

### III. System Values

*The Utah State Board of Education will set the conditions and systems for student success by working with, understanding, and listening to stakeholders on every level on practices, strategies, resources, and policies that will lead to continued and even greater efficiencies and improvements in student outcomes.*

## STRATEGIES

*The following are mutually reinforcing strategies that should be viewed as integrated goals and not acted upon in isolation. All strategies are rooted in each of the three listed imperatives.*

**Accountability:** Provide a transparent public educational system using evidence-based data that informs the public on the effectiveness of public education.

- Provide a transparent assessment system that includes diagnostic information to help the parent, child, and teacher understand how to improve performance
- Utilize a standards-based approach in all measuring systems
- Provide a robust data-driven school accountability system

**GOALS and ACTION STEPS:**

1. Determine what to measure, why to measure it, and how to measure it  
*Obtain recommendations from the Board's Accountability Task Force*
2. Conduct comprehensive overhaul of Utah Accountability Plan

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

- Provide data for informed enrollment options
- Investigate and promote alternative ways to fulfill state graduation requirements and show competency of state core standards
- Support adequate counseling options and information dissemination
- Promote evidence-based and cost-effective practices and interventions to meet individual student needs, with focus on early learners

**GOALS and ACTION STEPS:**

1. Promote innovation and educational options in policy and practice  
*Examine Board rules and state code*  
*Determine steps to promote innovation*  
*Establish or re-adjust funding system to incentivize innovation*

**Funding:** Preserve existing funding and efficiency levels while advocating for additional and repurposed dollars for strategic programs and improved student outcomes.

- Use and advocate for additional revenue for strategic improvements at all levels of public education
- Engage in zero-based budgeting processes and encourage similar practices for districts and charters
- Review the statewide funding model
- Review current state programs to ensure alignment with strategic priorities and efficacy

**Leadership Development:** Encourage all educators to engage in leadership opportunities.

- Improve existing teacher and administrator preparation and training programs
- Encourage school leaders to engage in learning communities to improve collaboration and practice
- Promote career pathways that incentivize effective teachers to engage in alternative teacher leadership roles while they remain active in the classroom

**GOALS and ACTION STEPS:**

1. Evaluate administrative licensure policies  
*Consider rule changes*  
*Examine research on issue, including consultation with Regional Educational Laboratory West (REL West) at WestEd*

**Teacher Retention and Recruitment:** Address the teacher shortage in Utah to support recruitment and retention of effective educators in the state.

- Align state budget recommendations to maximize flexibility for local education agencies to negotiate competitive educator salaries
- Examine future board actions to determine the impact on classroom climate
- Promote state policy and resource allocation that facilitates teacher retention in areas where students are most at risk
- Review and revise educator licensure, including looking for ways to add efficiency to an educator's ability to show competency of state requirements
- Improve professional learning through evidence-based practices
- Support the retention of beginning educators by collaborating with stakeholders to develop standards for education preparation program/local education agency partnerships and educator induction
- Set conditions in the statewide education system that will foster student interest in education as a profession
- Through collaboration with legislators, set parameters for workforce data use and collection

**GOALS and ACTION STEPS:**

1. Conduct comprehensive review of licensing practices  
*Develop proposal for Legislature to address issue*
2. Convene teacher task force to propose solution

**Oversight:** Monitor, review, and provide general supervision to all public education institutions and other entities for which the State Board has responsibility.

- Realign state-level resources to support oversight and fiduciary responsibilities
- Provide transparent and decision-ready budgetary data
- Improve training on federal grant sub-recipient and state accountability responsibilities of local education governing boards
- Provide a robust internal audit function for state public education funds and programs

**GOALS and ACTION STEPS:**

1. Create/obtain dashboard to track metrics of multiple external and internal indicators
2. Increase LEA transparency  
*Consider new rules that require LEA reporting*  
*Participate in joint discussion with Legislature*  
*Implement state enterprise resource planning system*  
*Implement ratings for accounting accountability*