

Education Interim Committee

2022 Amended Study Items List | May 18, 2022

The Education Interim Committee modified then adopted this list during the committee's meeting on May 18, 2022.

Highest Priority

Audits Assigned by the Legislative Audit Subcommittee. Up to 10 education-related legislative audits may be released during 2022 and potentially assigned to the Education Interim Committee. The committee will review these audits and study findings, recommendations, and related issues. Anticipated audit topics include:

- Higher education campus safety
- Teacher retention
- Student and teacher performance
- Public education financial reporting
- USHE efficiency

Sunset Review Items. Devote the necessary time to review and act upon any assigned sunset reviews, including:

- Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission, Title 53E, Chapter 6, Part 5 (sunsets July 1, 2023). This commission assists and advises the state board of education on issues relating to the professional practices of educators.
- Pilot program for late enrollment in dual language immersion, 53F-5-213 (sunsets July 1, 2023). Directs the state board of education to provide grants to LEAs to offer online language courses to students wanting to participate in a dual language immersion program as a late entrant.

Aligning Technical Education Credit Hours. USHE leaders have been working to better align how students accrue credit hours in technical colleges and degree-granting institutions to make transferring easier. For example, students at technical colleges often accrue membership hours rather than credit hours, which may not be easily transferrable to a degree-granting institution.

Consolidating Public Education Prevention Programs. There are multiple state prevention programs within the public education system (suicide prevention, bullying, etc.) that could be combined and streamlined.

Higher Education System Consolidation Follow Up. [SB 111](#) from the 2020 General Session merged the state's technical college and higher education systems. USHE leaders will provide an update on the merger status and process. They will also discuss issues they continue to work through following the merger, such as:

- Share findings from a study on areas for shared services and redundancies following the merger.
- USHE anticipates issuing an RFP to study the role of Utah's community colleges and the services they offer. They anticipate issuing an RFP after July 1, 2022, and will provide an update on the scope of the requested report.
- Receive an overview of program duplication between technical colleges and degree-granting institutions and study how that could be addressed. For example, Mountainland Technical College and Utah Valley University both offer similar culinary arts programs in Utah County.

Ethnic Studies School Curriculum. SB 244 from the 2022 General Session created the Ethnic Studies Commission. This commission will study the contributions of Utahns of diverse ethnicities and make recommendations on how to incorporate ethnic studies into the core standards for Utah public schools. The committee will receive an update from the commission on its work.

Public Education Accountability System Redesign. In 2021, the Utah State Board of Education started a process to redesign the state’s accountability system to better align with the Portrait of a Graduate and personalized, competency-based learning efforts. Three groups are engaged in this process; their work is scheduled to conclude in July 2022, and the report is due September 30, 2022.

Parent involvement in student learning options.

Medium Priority

Public Education Covid-19 Recovery Efforts. Study how LEA’s and the state are spending ESSER III funds, high-dosage tutoring to address Covid-19 learning loss in reading, and other related issues.

Higher Education Presidential Search Process Review. During the recent and ongoing presidential searches, USHE leaders have identified areas where the current presidential search process could be modified. This may require legislative action.

Charter School Governance and Agreements. Review findings from the [2021 OLAG audit on charter school governance](#) and identify recommendations that could be codified. Also study charter school agreements and renewals.

“Talent Ready Utah” Transition to USHE. Talent Ready Utah – an education/industry partnership – will be moving from Go Utah to USHE. USHE leaders will update the committee on the transition and expected changes.

Utah College Advisor Corps. USHE leaders will update the committee on the activities of the Utah College Advisor Corps program, which uses legislative funding to provide permanent college advisors for students in some high schools. The program focuses on underserved students and is currently providing college counseling services in about 80 high schools.

Statewide Online Courses Initiative. Study the benefits of creating a statewide strategy to offer online courses for Utah’s higher education students. Specifically, USHE and institution leaders would like to create an initiative that would allow students to enroll in online courses from providers in the state and earn credit that would transfer seamlessly to local schools.

Department of Justice Report on Davis School District. Review the response of Davis School District leaders to the 2021 Department of Justice report finding “serious and widespread racial harassment of Black and Asian-American students.” Additionally, in March 2022, a racial discrimination lawsuit was filed against the district.

USB E Youth in Care Education Programs. The state board administers a program to educate youth in care, serving three populations under the umbrella program: youth in foster care, detention centers, and custody. The three populations have different needs, and the current “one-size-fits all” approach in policy is not as effective as it could be. The committee will review the existing youth in care education program to better tailor it to the three populations, potentially with revisions to existing statute.