



2024 Approved Interim Study Items List, Audits, & Sunsets

Education Interim Committee | May 15, 2024

Study Items List

This list was approved by the Legislative Management Committee. The Education Interim Committee amended and approved this study items list on May 15, 2024.

General Information and Committee Process

1. **Funding Overviews:** Informational overviews about how the state's public education and higher education systems are funded.
2. **Reports Due to the Education Interim Committee:** Review the reports due to the Education Interim Committee and look for ways to streamline the reporting process and make other updates as necessary.
3. **Burdensome Regulations:** Review statutes and rules that may be burdensome for the state's systems of education.
4. **Funding:** As the committee reviews public education and higher education programs, flag any with funding that could be reviewed by the Public Education Appropriations and Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittees.

Higher Education

1. **Accreditation:** Interim study on the higher education accreditation process and alternative accreditation options available to Utah (2024 General Session [HJR 3](#)).
2. **Tuition and Fees:** The Utah Board of Higher Education recently approved tuition increases (March board meeting). Hear an informational presentation on the changes.
3. **School Safety:** Given the increased attention on school safety issues, request a presentation on safety measures at the state's institutions of higher education.
4. **Implementation of HB 261, Equal Opportunity Initiatives (2024):** Update on the status of implementation of these new requirements at higher education institutions across the state.
5. **Submitted by the Utah Board of Higher Education**
 - a. Talent Ready Utah: Update the committee on Talent Ready Utah's current projects (K-12 partnerships, work-based learning, etc.).
 - b. The Point: Provide an update on development of The Point, particularly the commercialization, innovation, and economic development portion of the project.
 - c. Strategic Plan: The board is currently revisiting their strategic plan; update the committee about anticipated changes to this plan.
 - d. Utah College Advising Corps: Informational presentation about this program, which places higher education advisors in high schools to assist counselors as they work with students in exploring options post-graduation. There are currently



about 90 counselors placed at high schools around the state through this program. This program is largely funded by the board and housed at the University of Utah.

Public Education

1. **Implementation and Enforcement**
 - a. Review mechanisms that governing bodies currently possess to ensure LEAs are implementing new programs.
 - b. The Legislature and the State Board of Education make changes to statute and board rule that directly impact LEAs. Request information about who informs LEAs about these changes, how they are informed about these changes, and what they will need to do to implement them.
 - c. Define what "general control and supervision" means (constitutional mandate for the State Board of Education).
2. **English Learner and Refugee Students:** Overview of how LEAs serve English Learners (ELs) and refugee students, including:
 - a. Funding mechanisms and costs, particularly LEAs with increasing numbers of ELs and refugee students.
 - b. Demographics and areas where these student populations are increasing.
3. **Special Education:** Informational overview on the basics of special education, including funding and state and federal requirements.
4. **Student Discipline:** Gang prevention efforts - Request a presentation about gang activity in schools and efforts at gang prevention in schools.
5. **Student Absenteeism:** Review issues of increasing absenteeism in schools, including if attendance needs to be part of student grades.
6. **Criminal Investigation of School Employees:** Ensure school employees who are under criminal investigation for child abuse are not around children at school during the investigation.
7. **Student Teaching and Charter Schools:** Review current processes for teacher preparation programs to assign students to LEAs for student teaching and look for ways to increase charter schools' access to student teachers.
8. **Ensuring Student Outcomes of Excellence in Reading, Writing, and Math:** Review current educational practices to determine if there is a drop-off in the fundamental outcomes of students in the areas of literacy, math, and writing.
9. **School Safety**
 - a. Report from the Schol Security Task Force.
 - b. Review safety issues at school activities.



10. **Class Size Reduction:** Review class size reduction and FTEs.

11. **Submitted by the Utah State Board of Education**

- a. Best Approaches to Teaching Math: An informational item from the State Board of Education about evaluating the way math is taught in Utah and discussing implementing a framework like that of science of reading.
- b. Review of Funding of Mental Health in Schools: Review what mental health programs exist in schools, the amount of money being spent by the state on these programs, and the efficacy of the programs overall.
- c. High School Graduation Requirements: Review existing requirements in statute and in board rule pertaining to high school graduation and identify potential revisions to improve education.
- d. Data Reliability: Review past OLAG audits and review issues around reliability of LEA and state board data.
- e. Flexibility:
 - i. Explore options for providing more flexibility in assessments.
 - ii. Explore options for providing more flexibility to LEAs. Review the regulatory framework (statute and board rule) and the process the LEAs use to seek waivers.

Audits

These audits have anticipated release dates during the 2024 Interim.

Audit Name	Expected Release Date
Juab School District	May Interim
Teacher Merit Award	May Interim
Teacher and Student Success Act	May Interim
Rich School District	August Interim
State Online Education Program (SOEP)	August Interim
My Tech High	October Interim

Sunset Items

Name	Statute
Grant for Professional Learning	Section 53F-5-214
Elementary Teacher Preparation Grant	Section 53F-5-215
Local Innovations Civics Education Pilot Program	Section 53F-5-219
School Security Task Force	Section 53-22-104.1
School Security Task Force Education Advisory Board	Section 53-22-104.2