



Charter Connection

October 2019

YOUR MONTHLY UPDATE FOR ALL THINGS CHARTER

[Table of Contents](#)

Director's Message

Now we have a month under our belt for the new school year. I can't believe we are already in the 2020 school year! Happy October!

School Support Specialist Marie Steffensen and I are going around to charter schools' governing board meetings to do a training that introduces to your governing board members who we are and what we expect from our charter school boards. We have already gone to a few board meetings and it has been wonderful to meet your boards in person and see their dedication. Do not be surprised if Marie reaches out to you and your board chair to come to one of your board meetings. Given that there is only two of us and over 100 boards, it will take quite a while for us to get to everyone. Please feel free to reach out to us if you would like to get to the top of our list or have a specific board meeting you would like us to attend.

Marie is also working on a School Support Model that will coordinate and organize all the different trainings, mentoring, and other support opportunities that the SCSB provides, either directly, or through third party providers. Stay tuned for that as well.

— Jennifer

[Director's Message](#)

[School Spotlight](#)

[Dr. Ed](#)

[Themes of the Month](#)

[Opportunities for Schools](#)

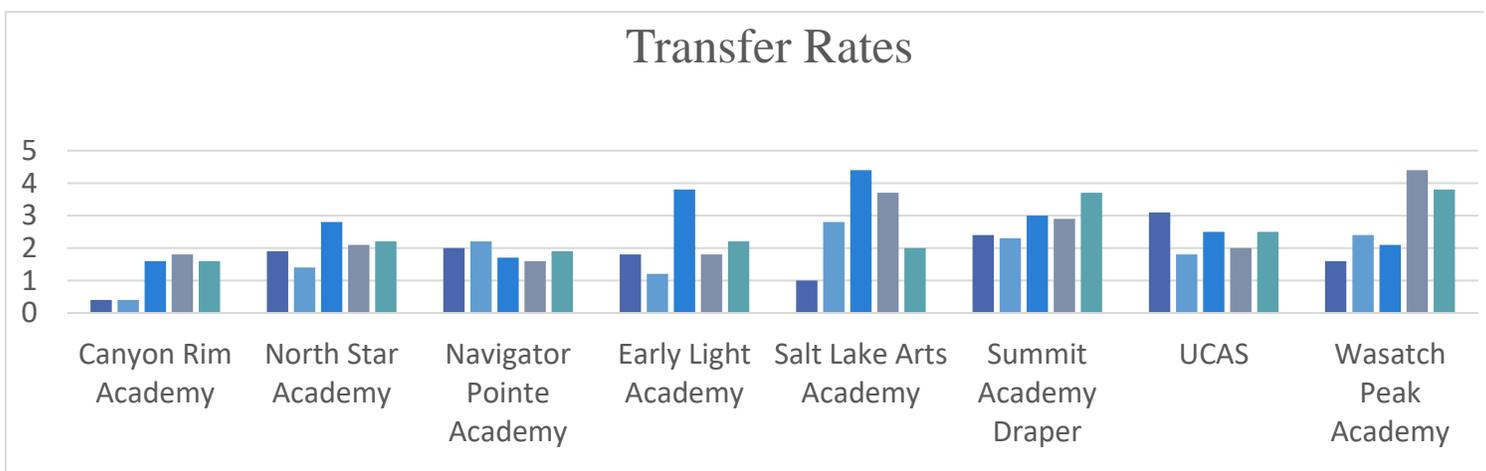
[Outstanding in Our Field](#)

[October \(2019\)](#)

[November \(2019\)](#)

Spotlight: Navigator Pointe Academy for Impressive Transfer Rate

The State Charter School Board congratulates Navigator Pointe Academy (NPA) for their excellent transfer rate. For the past five years, NPA has had below a 3% transfer rate. This low of a transfer rate year after year is highly commendable. NPA attributes its low transfer rate to excellent staff and teachers, a strong proven curriculum, strong school culture and great families.



Dear Dr. Ed,

I have been reading about Visible Learning and John Hattie's research. I feel like I can relate to Hattie in wanting to understand which variables are the most important to help my students succeed. Although he found that "almost everything we do improves learning," he points us to the variables that have the greatest effect. Since the average effect size was 0.4, anything above 0.4 would have a greater positive effect on student learning. Instructional Leadership has a high effect size so I feel this is somewhere I'd like to start my focus. But, how do I truly become an instructional leader?

Sincerely,

Not Sure Where to Start

Dear Not Sure Where to Start,

Instructional leadership refers to those leaders who have their major focus on creating a learning climate free of disruption, a system of clear teaching objectives and high expectations for teachers and students. So, where does one begin? What can a school leader do to shift the mindset of teachers, students, and parents to make a difference?

Lots of things! But let's concentrate on one. The evidence shows that if school leaders see themselves as

"evaluators" then they are likely to have the highest chance of shifting mindset towards student learning. An instructional school leader is clear about what they want others to know and be able to do and they know what the success indicators are. Some questions you could try asking are:

- How do we know this is working?
- How can we compare 'this' with 'that'?
- What is the effect size of this program/method?
- What evidence would convince us that we are wrong?
- Where is the evidence that shows this is superior to other programs?
- Where have we seen this practice occurring, so that it produces effective results?
- Do we share a common conception of progress?

By developing an evaluation plan about the impact of teaching and learning, you will lead others in seeing the value of these questions. And the answers you find will drive change in your school and develop both collaborative efficacy and expertise by having your students, staff, and parents work with each other, producing a greater outcome.

Happy leading!

--*Dr. Ed U. Cation*

Dr. Ed U. Cation

P.S. If you love Hattie's works, you might check out <https://corwin.zendesk.com/hc/en-us> as it has a great question and answer database related to his research and best practices!

Adapted from Viable Learning MetaX

Theme of the Month

Which accounting principle should Utah charter schools follow? The State Auditor's Office was asked by the State Board of Education to provide guidance with respect to the correct source of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) for charter schools. Clarification was needed because while most schools reported their annual financial statements using principles guided under the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), there were a few schools that reported their annual financial statements using principles guided under the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB).

After conducting their research, the State Auditor's Office concluded that all Utah charter schools, regardless of legal form, must follow accounting standards promulgated by GASB. For fiscal years 2019 and 2020, you may report using either standard; however, the State Office would prefer that you reported in accordance to GASB. Starting in fiscal year 2021, GASB will be mandatory. For additional information, please review the Auditor Alert 2019-01 Draft at: <https://auditor.utah.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2019/07/2019-01-Source-of-GAAP-for-Charter-Schools-Draft.pdf>

Opportunities for Schools

- Has your charter school governing board done its annual training on the Open and Public Meetings Act yet? The Office of the State Auditor has a training for you <http://training.auditor.utah.gov/courses/open-and-public-meetings-act-2019>
- On October 24-26 the National Science Teachers Association is holding their Regional Conference in Salt Lake City. All science teachers, Elementary and STEM teachers would find this of great value. There is a grant available. [See link for more info](#)
- The American Psychological Foundation is currently seeking applications for the Esther Katz Rosen Pre-college Psychology Grant Program (up to \$15,000). For more information, visit <https://www.apa.org/apf/funding/rosen-precollege?tab=3>.
- SCSB Authorizing & School Support Specialist Marie Steffensen is working on a new support model to help schools achieve and is seeking your feedback via survey (open until October 4th) at <https://forms.gle/N1iSFxJpeVdanFdJ8>



Outstanding in Our Field

- In June, at the National History Fair in Washington DC, Thomas Edison student Lydia Bohm placed 4th among 2019 Junior Individual Website Finalists for her entry "Florence Nightingale: More Than Just the "Lady of the Lamp"" Way to go!
- According to a new [NCES report](#), Utah has the fifth highest percentage of enrollment in charter schools in the nation!
- Noah Webster Academy won the BYU Triple Crown Race!!! Read about this great story [here](#).
- At the SCSB's September 12th meeting, Navigator Pointe Academy was spotlighted for their continually impressive transfer rate!
- Beehive students Sidor and Kassie have been selected as top 30 finalists in the Broadcom MASTERS, a national STEM competition. They will compete in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 25 for the top award of \$25,000
- Ms. Loree Rominger of Providence Hall was awarded as September's Employee of the Month of SCSB schools. Her Math IB SL pass rate was 90%, average 4.0 score. Her IB pass rate for Math IB Studies was 100% with an average score of 5.5. Over 1.5 points higher than the world average!

October 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			USBE Meeting	USBE Committees		
	1	2	3	4	5	6
				SCSB Meeting		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

November 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1	2	3
			USBE Meeting	USBE Committees		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Charter Directors		SCSB Meeting			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	