



Charter Connection

May 2019

YOUR MONTHLY UPDATE FOR ALL THINGS CHARTER

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Director's Message

I hope you have had a good year. I cannot believe how fast this year has gone and that it is already May! It has been a good year. This was our first year of doing Comprehensive Reviews. While doing them we have learned a lot and refined the process, but the feedback has been generally very positive. In addition to spotlighting schools during the State Charter School Board meetings, we also began having a charter employee of the month who we spotlight at the Charter Directors meetings. It is a joy to read the nominations for these individuals, and very hard to choose between all the great individuals nominated. I also am happy to report that 23 schools have successfully converted to the new *Charter Agreement* with Exhibit A.

I hope you all will have a relaxing and fun summer break. Our newsletter, Charter Directors meetings, and Employee of the Month will also go on summer break and not occur in June or July; however, staff will still be around, so please contact us if you have questions. The newsletter, Charter Directors meetings, and Employee of the Month will start back up in August. Have a great summer!

—Jennifer

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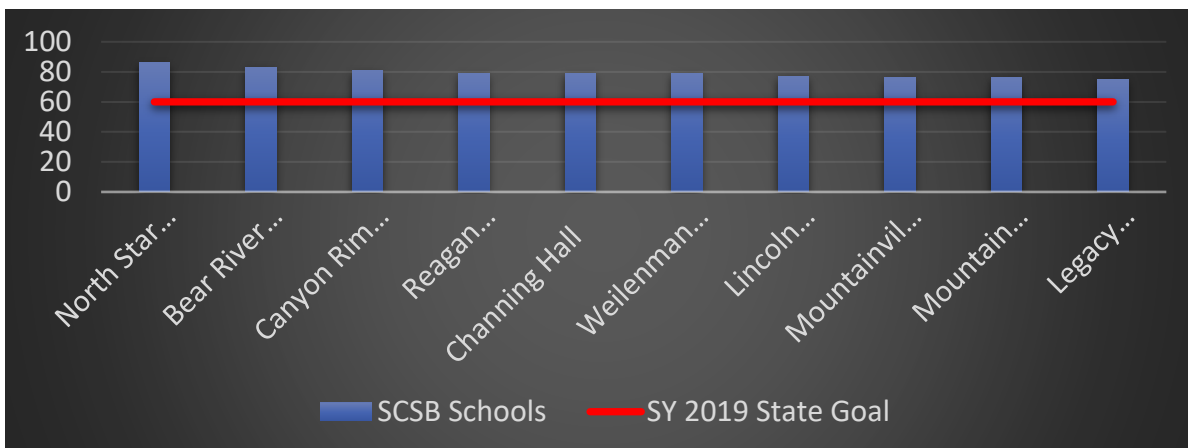
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School Spotlight:

In April, The State Charter School Board spotlighted Bear River Academy for their DIBELS growth from beginning of the year to the middle of the year assessments. Bear River Academy had 83% of students making typical or better progress. Congratulations Bear River Academy!



Dear Dr. Ed,

Charter Schools, in many minds, are supposed to serve as labs of innovation. Many ideas for charter schools, while innovate at first, over time just become common practice. What are some of the new innovations in education that schools could adopt to stay on the cutting edge of education?

Still Innovative?

Dear Still Innovative,

There seems to be three high leverage challenges that education research aims to tackle:

1. Improving students' ability to write the kind of nonfiction that is required in college and the workplace
2. Deepening students' understanding of key math skills and concepts

3. Strengthening children's "executive functions"

Writing

Some innovative ideas included steering away from the five-paragraph essay and connecting students with authentic audiences to read and offer feedback on their work. Initiatives that support students in using their voices to advocate for causes for which they are concerned. Using online platforms to track comments, edits, and revisions.

Math

Fun, real-world learning environments such as grounding math instruction in chess or policy debates around issues like raising the minimum wage. The use of intelligent tutoring systems and personalized learning platforms.

Executive Functions

Currently, there are no valid, reliable measures for gauging skills like managing one's emotions. Still, there are proposals out to conduct new research on executive functioning, plans to develop tablet-based measurements and intervention platforms, and programs which explore behavioral nudges that target a specific daily behavior which can be taught quickly.

Keep pursuing ways to make learning student centered and you will always make learning meaningful – even if not cutting edge.

Dr. Ed U. Cation

Do you have a question? Write to the SCSB and Dr. Ed will research your question and get you an answer from leading experts.

Themes of the Month

Annual Enrollment and Financial Metrics: As you close out the school year, here are the key annual enrollment and financial metrics and their respective benchmarks, that your school should measure and track.

KEY ENROLLMENT METRICS

Transfer Rate: end-of-year transfer rate $\leq 20\%$ and no more than 4% higher than prior year's rate; Retention Rate: year-to-year retention rate $\geq 60\%$ and no more than 7% lower than prior year's rate; Enrollment Trend: October 1 count $\geq 90\%$ of prior year; Average Daily Membership (ADM): end-of-year ADM $\geq 90\%$ of October 1 count.

KEY FINANCIAL METRICS

Unrestricted Days Cash on Hand: maintain at least 30 days unrestricted cash on hand, Debt to Asset ratio: maintain a debt to asset ratio of ≤ 1 ; Current Ratio: maintain a current ratio of ≥ 1 with a positive trend; Audit Findings: no material audit findings.

For further information, please go to the [School Oversight](#) page on the Utah State Charter School Board website.

Opportunities for Schools

- [USBE Spring Finance Training on May 15th](#)
- Save the Date. Join Entheos Academy Magna on May 9th at 6:30 PM to celebrate and learn about their Student Service Learning Projects. [Click here for more info.](#)
- 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](#)
- USBE is holding a free training for the Functional Behavior Assessment of Bullying on May 6, 2019 from 8am to 4pm at the Jordan Academy for Technology and Careers, South Campus on 12723 S Park Avenue Riverton, UT 84065. Register in MIDAS course 52572
- Utah Energy Workforce Scholarships from the Governor's Office of Energy Development for high school senior STEM students. More info [here.](#)
- Nominate the next Utah Teacher of the Year by emailing the name of your nomination to Alisha.steed@schools.utah.gov by May 24, 2019 and submitting [this application](#) by June 24, 2019.



Outstanding in Our Field

- Bear River Charter School was spotlighted by the SCSB for their exceptional DIBELS growth in its April meeting.
- Halis Kablan, Dean of Academics at Beehive Science & Technology Academy, was awarded the April Employee of the Month for Charter Schools Authorized by the SCSB. Mr. Kablan was celebrated at Charter Directors meeting and given a certificate and Amazon gift card. To nominate an awesome colleague, do so [here.](#)
- Charters dominated the top 10 of [U.S. News and World Report's annual ranking of Utah high schools](#) with the top 3 spots, 4 of the top 5, and 6 of the top 10! Congrats to InTech, Beehive, AMES, Karl G Maeser, NUAMES, and Itineris!
- [Lt. Governor Spencer Cox had the pleasure of spending time with DaVinci Academy students discussing suicide awareness and prevention.](#)
- The [Century Foundation ranked Utah #1](#) in terms of diversity in charters.
- On April 22, Beehive Science & Technology Academy represented Utah in the State Egg Design program at the White House. Their team of students designed an egg that represents the state. This egg was displayed at the event's entrance. [Click here to see their design!](#)
- 2 AMES students, 1 NUAMES student, 1 UCAS Student, and 1 APA student have received the [Daniels Scholarship](#). Way to go!

May 2019

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

June 2019

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