

Charter Connection

January 2019

YOUR MONTHLY UPDATE FOR ALL THINGS CHARTER

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Director's Message

Happy New Year! I hope you had a restful and happy holiday.

For the first month of the year I want to talk about the State Charter School Board's first listed value, *Students First*:

"In all decisions, we first and foremost assess the impact on students. We are committed to superior results and engage in practices in which students succeed academically and are prepared for the future."

As an authorizer, we work mostly with school administration and governing boards; however, we realize that what is most important is the learning and impact on each individual student. We hear wonderful stories about students who find success at charter schools. The State Charter School Board wants to provide opportunities for schools to help more students reach great success. As such, one of our goals is to consider and, where possible, assess the impact of our decisions on students. During the December board meeting, we assessed the impact of our authorizing over the last decade. We will continue to put the focus on students in our considerations and assess the impact of our decisions on students. As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "the secret in education lies in respecting the student."

—Jennifer

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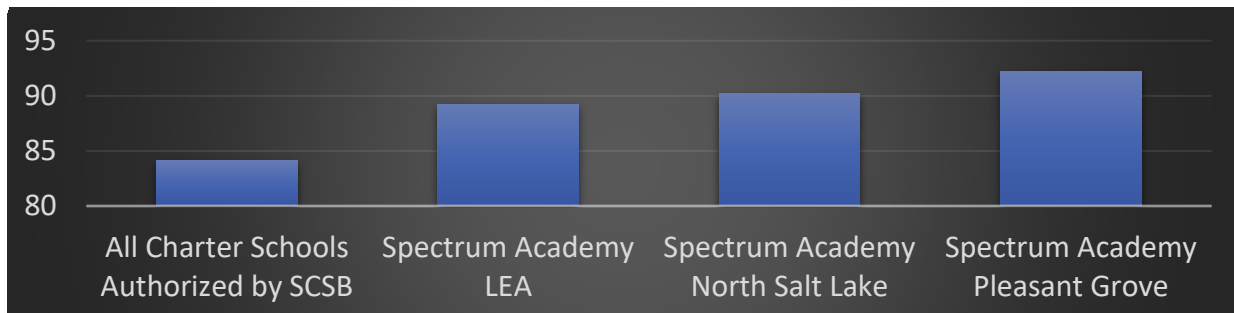
[January 2019 \(Calendar\)](#)

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School Spotlight:

Spectrum Academy was spotlighted in the State Charter School Board's December meeting for their exceptionally high retention rate. Spectrum Academy's mission is to serve students identified on the autism spectrum. They engage their students by developing programs for them that meet their individual needs, teaching essential life skills, as well as developing trade/job skills. One of these programs focuses on learning to prepare and present food in a commercial kitchen. The State Charter Board was able to sample some of the delicious deserts made by students.



Dear Dr. Ed,

I keep hearing “use research and evidence, but also think outside the box and try new things and be brave to fail” —that’s not just a disconnect, it’s a contradiction!

As a charter school, I am supposed to innovate and try new forms of education, but I want to implement what works and ensure the students in my school have the best opportunities. How do we stay true to our charter? Innovate? Use best practice for student success?

I feel like the answers are out there, but they are just not getting into the classroom!

Sincerely,
Contradicted Classroom

Dear Contradicted Classroom,

Part of what you are describing is known as the “last mile” problem—how to get the information into the hands of the people who need it most. In schools, no matter the mission, it is good teachers who are the most important ingredient; however, as you noted, too few educators feel research has tangible impact on their work. Many teachers view research as a search for bright shiny objects pushed by administrators without adequate attention to the needs and skills of teachers. Others feel that their professional knowledge is often neglected, and that research was “done to them not with them.” Many teachers turn to sources like Google, Edutopia, Twitter, Teachers Pay Teachers, and Pinterest for information. Only a scattered handful of teachers had ever heard of the [Institute of Education Sciences](#) (IES) or the [What Works Clearinghouse](#). Ditto [NCER](#), [NCES](#), [NCSER](#).

Good news, the IES is working to improve how research is disseminated to teachers via webinars, podcasts, and conversations with teachers who have implemented the practices. The other good news: So is Utah! Check out [ULEAD](#), whose mission is “getting what works into the classroom.”

Dr. Ed U. Cation

Themes of the Month

Charter School Information for Students and Parents. As per [Rule 277-482-4](#), a charter school shall have a website that contains the following information:

- a. the charter school's governance structure, including the name, qualification, and contact information of all charter school governing board members;
- b. the number of new students that will be admitted into the school by grade;
- c. the school calendar, which shall include: (i) the first and last days of school; (ii) scheduled holidays; (iii) scheduled professional development days; and (iv) scheduled non-school days;
- d. timelines for acceptance of new students consistent with Section [53G-6-503](#);
- e. the requirement and availability of a charter school student application;
- f. the application timeline to be considered for enrollment in the charter school;
- g. procedures for transferring to or from a charter school;
- h. timelines for a transfer;
- i. provisions for payment, if required, of a one-time fee per secondary school enrollment, not to exceed \$5.00, consistent with Subsection [53G-6-503\(9\)](#);
- j. the charter school governing board's policies; and
- k. other items required by the charter school's authorizer; statute; and Board rule.

(subject to change), the State Charter School Board requires that websites contain, in addition to the above items:

- a. the board meeting schedule;
- b. location of governing board minutes and audio recordings. Statement of how to access minutes and audio recordings no longer accessible electronically;
- c. publicly noticed meetings on the [Utah Public Notice Website](#);
- d. the school's Charter Application and the school's Charter Agreement.

Opportunities for Schools

- The Esther Katz Rosen Precollege Psychology Grant Program provides financial support for efforts aimed at improving the quality of education in psychological science and its application in the secondary schools for high ability students. Proposals must focus on supplying education for gifted and talented high school students. [More information can be found here](#). **Deadline is March 1, 2019.**
- Beehive invites you to the [STEM and Charter Expo](#) on January 26th at the Mountain America Expo Center at (9575 S State St, Sandy) from 11-3:00 PM.
- The highly successful Innovative Student Improvement Program (ISIP) grant from the State Charter School Board is back! You may find the application/more information at <https://www.utahscsb.org/funding>.
- [Grant available for attending the Utah Science Teachers Association Conference in February, 2019.](#)
- Save these dates for your [regional seminar regarding special education](#) topics!
South – October 27
West – November 17
North – January 26
East – March 9



Outstanding in Our Field

- Entheos Academy, in partnership with USU extension, has received a grant worth over a million dollars to provide after-school academic enrichment and family support programming!!! [Official Press release](#).
- [Guadalupe 2nd graders decorated the Christmas tree at Zions Bank](#). This has become a fun tradition for Guadalupe students.

January 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	New Year's Day 1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	USBE Steering Committee Meeting 9	USBE Meeting 10	11	12	13
Charter Directors Meeting 14	15	SCSB Meeting 16	SCSB Meeting 17	18	19	20
Martin Luther King Jr. Day 21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February 2019

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