



# Charter Connection

## October 2018

YOUR MONTHLY UPDATE FOR ALL THINGS CHARTER

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## Director's Message

The State Charter School Board recently adopted the vision that “every student has access to an excellent education that meets their unique learning needs.” This vision recognizes that each student is different, so public education in Utah is enriched through choice and having unique educational models. But, choice in and of itself is not enough. The educational choices offered to students need to provide an excellent education that provides for student success. As an authorizer, we want our charter schools to be enabled to provide that excellent education. Student success can be measured many ways. SAGE scores are just one way to measure student success; however, they are a very visible and common measure, so the SCSB celebrates with those many charter schools who achieved higher than expected SAGE results last year. There are more charters who performed well than I have space to recognize here. The following schools had particularly high growth: ELA: AMES, Mana Academy, NUAMES, Excelsior Academy, UCAS Math: NUAMES, Wallace Stegner Academy, Vanguard Academy, Mana Academy, North Star Academy, Beehive Academy. Congratulations to these schools!

*Jennifer*

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## School Spotlights:

The State Charter School Board recognizes both Bonneville Academy of Stansbury Park, and the Center for Creativity, Innovation, and, Discovery (CCID) of Providence for having the lowest transfer rate of schools in their first year of operation. Traditionally, schools in their first year of operation tend to have a higher transfer rate. Both Bonneville Academy and CCID maintained a transfer rate of 9% during the 2017-2018 school year.

Some of the things that make Bonneville Academy and CCID a place where students want to be are:

- 🔑 Strong leadership in administration
- 🔑 Hands on and diverse learning opportunities
- 🔑 Strong school culture and sense of community
- 🔑 Strong RTI program and other student support systems

## Dear Dr. Ed,

After 40 plus years in education, with the last 25 as a school leader, I think it is finally time to retire. As I contemplate leaving this role, I am pondering how to build leadership in my school and what my fingerprints on the building will be after I leave. I believe these are questions that even a new principal might want to ponder as well.

Sincerely,

Hanging Up My Hat



Dear Hanging Up Your Hat,

Firstly, a sincere thank you for your many years of service to students. Your musing suggests you are a thoughtful and capable leader. There has been this notion for years that you do everything to keep your best talent at all costs, but in-reality, it is important to figure out ways to develop people, even if that means they will eventually leave. [Forbes Magazine](#), and others, provide tips for developing those in your charge: Performance management, job fit, involvement, and recognition are just four ways you can develop leaders. Many leaders are scared to develop personnel only to have them leave, while they should be more worried about not developing people and having them stay.

As for your fingerprints—this is what the leadership community calls “Creating Sustainable Change.” Great leaders do not just maintain the status quo, instead they use their unique abilities to help get the school to the next level. Building upon what has been left, they work with their community to ensure that their impact on the school lasts long after their time serving the community. If you truly desire your leadership to be a legacy, you must strategically work towards making your organization better. Dr. Scott Neil, provides [five steps to creating sustainable change](#): “Assess, Create, Implement, Measure, and Reflect.”

Most importantly, change is only sustained when the stakeholders embrace the change; so work with your team to focus your fingerprints.

As you wisely stated, the skills of developing leadership and creating sustainable change are not to be reserved until we retire, they should be part of every leader’s toolkit.

Best Wishes & Much Success,  
Dr. Ed U. Cation

## Themes of the Month

Governing boards need to complete three trainings annually, and boards must assure such trainings occurred every summer. Such training benefits the board and LEA staff by correcting weaknesses and building on strengths, ensuring an efficient governing board.

I’ve seen three strategies for governance board trainings: 1) individuals take responsibility of their own training through a resource such as GBOT, 2) use a contractor to present training during the board meeting, and 3) self-directed board training as a regular agenda item. Governing Board Online Training, or GBOT, is provided in UCAP with 19 available modules. Individuals complete their training at their own speed and the designated board member receives a notice when a board member completes each module.

Several LEA’s use book study as a form of regular self-directed training. In a book study, a governing board discusses a chapter from a book every month. A while ago, we suggested governing boards read and discuss Brian L. Carpenter’s *Charter School Board University*. Carpenter’s book had questions at the end of each chapter to facilitate discussions among members. If you are interested in a book study for your governing board, please consider books such as *Governance as Leadership: Reframing the Work of Nonprofit Boards* by Richard Chait, William Ryan, and Barbara Taylor, or *Boards That Make a Difference* by John Carver. Both books are much shorter than Carpenter’s book.

One training must cover the Open and Public Meetings Act (§52-4 – 104). Online versions can be found in GBOT or with the [Office of the State Auditor](#). Either training should take about 10 minutes. The Open and Public Meetings Act **must** be repeated every year.

## Opportunities for Schools

- [Connecting for a Cure: The Utah Youth Opioid Summit](#) on October 12<sup>th</sup> at the Vivint Smart Home Arena is an event sponsored by the [Utah Attorney General's Office](#) to combat the Utah opioid epidemic. [Register your students here.](#)
- [Secondary Level Literacy Leadership Institute w/ Pati Montgomery: October 11-12, February 20-21](#)
- [RTI and MTSS Conference October 16 & 17.](#)
- [KUED is awarding \\$100-\\$500 grants for Mini Reading Marathons & reading parties to libraries, schools, and non-profit organizations in small communities 100+ miles from Salt Lake County. Apply by Oct 5th.](#)
- [www.Utahstatesong.com](http://www.Utahstatesong.com) is a new resource for teaching Utah History. The website contains 1. VIDEO: State Song- "Utah This Is the Place" 2. Introductory Sheet- to "U for Utah" Student Presentation- can be downloaded and shared with others 3. Narration for the student presentation 4. 5 Utah Songs- with vocals 5. 5 Utah Songs- with accompaniment only.
- [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

- On September 20<sup>th</sup>, Freedom Preparatory Academy had a ribbon cutting ceremony for their new auditorium and student common areas. Great event!
- Excelsior Academy had a ribbon cutting ceremony on September 14<sup>th</sup> for their new middle school!
- With Innovative Student Improvement Program funds from the SCSB, Itineris Early College High implemented a technology and design career development program for marginalized young adults. 10% have already gained employment in the tech industry as a result! [Watch a video about the program](#) from their partner Future IN Design.
- Shouts out to you and your incredible employees. If you are a school authorized by the SCSB and have an awesome colleague who deserves more recognition, fill out our ["Employee of the Month" form!](#) We'd love to hear about them!

## October 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			<a href="#">USBE Meeting</a>	<a href="#">USBE Standing Committees/USDB Board Mtg/Study Session</a>		
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
Columbus Day		<a href="#">Collaboration Meeting</a>	<a href="#">SCSB Meeting</a>	<a href="#">Connecting for a Cure</a>		
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

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			<a href="#">SCSB Meeting</a>			
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
Veterans' Day	<a href="#">Charter Directors</a>					
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
			Thanksgiving Day			
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		