

Promises to Keep: Promises to Keep Legislative Agenda

Background: At the State Board of Education retreat held on August 19-20, 2011, USOE staff made several presentations regarding proposed legislation. The proposed legislation is intended to further the Board's mission as stated in Promises to Keep. The main points of each of these proposals are presented below.

1. Changes to *Orderly Termination Act* and *Educator Evaluation Act* (Promises to Keep - High Quality Instruction)

- Repeal 53A-8-101 through 53A-8-107 (*Utah Orderly School Termination Procedures Act*) and 53A-10-101 through 53A-10-108 (*Educator Evaluation*), generally devolving responsibility for personnel policy to district boards of education.
- Enact a new section 53A-8a that assigns responsibility for education workforce management to local governing boards, with provisions for general control and supervision by the State Board of Education.
- In the new enactment, create limitations on the duration of expectation of continued employment. District and charter school policies, contracts, or practices may create expectations of continued employment with the limits of statute and board rule.
- In the new enactment, create provisions for the incremental development of performance pay elements in district and charter school compensation programs.
- In the new enactment, provide a ten-year opt-out clause for employees who are "career employees" under current statutory provisions.

2. Changes to SEOP and graduation requirements (Promises to Keep - High Standards and Relevance)

- Amend 53A-1a-106 *School District and Individual School Powers* to replace the requirement for student education/occupation plans (SEOP) with college and career ready plans.
- Amend R277-462 *Comprehensive Counseling and Guidance Program* to define college and career ready plans and to identify college and career pathways. Amend other Board rules in which the term SEOP is used, replacing it with college and career ready language.
- Amend R277-700 *The Elementary and Secondary School Core Curriculum* to establish a differentiated diploma that recognizes the completion of a college and career ready plan.

- Require the completion of 2.0 of high school requirements (an average of .5 credits per year) through online offerings, with specific courses identified by the Board as only available on line.
- Amend 53A-15-1001 through 53A-1006 to maintain the Utah Electronic High School (EHS) and to define the role of EHS as offering the required online courses for graduation and offering limited core course for both flexibility in student scheduling and remediation, with an appropriation as needed.
- Increase high school graduation requirements by 2.0 credits, with an additional .5 credit requirement in U.S. government and civics, 1.0 credit in mathematics, and .5 credit to be identified.

3. Changes to the Charter School approval process
(Promises to Keep - High Quality Instruction)

- Amend 53A-1a-513 *Funding for Charter Schools* to create a state charter school start-up committee, comprised of the state superintendent, the state charter school board chair, the state director of charter schools, and the chairs of legislative committees on public education.
- Empower this committee to determine the amount, duration, and number of state and federally funded charter school start-up grants based on 1) unique and new instructional approaches; 2) unique and new target populations to be served; 3) establishment of charter schools in geographic areas where charter schools are not available; and 4) the probable long-term success of the school.

4. State Superintendent requirements relative to persistently underperforming schools
(Promises to Keep - High Quality Instruction)

- Amend 53A-1-301 to require that the state superintendent establish a method for identifying Utah's persistently underperforming schools.
- Provide authority to the state superintendent to require and to approve plans for improvement in persistently underperforming schools.
- Provide for resources that the superintendent may make available to persistently underperforming schools.

5. Changes to School Trust Lands requirements

- Amend 53C-1-103 to define beneficiary representative to include the State Board of Education.
- Amend 53C-1-203 to change the appointment process for the Board of Trustees nominating committee.
- Amend 53C-1-303 to require the director/board of trustees to notify beneficiary representatives regarding major items that the would be useful to protect beneficiary rights and to permit the beneficiary to inspect and examine trust records and documents.
- Amend R277-477 *Distribution of Funds from the Interest and Dividend Account* to define duties and responsibilities of the School Children's Trust section staff.