



Charter Connection

May 2020

YOUR MONTHLY UPDATE FOR ALL THINGS CHARTER

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Director's Message

It is very hard to believe that it is already May! We are so pleased with the wonderful work all of you are doing. This past month, we hired another research consultant, Mr. [Robert Kohutek](#).

Robert lives in Farmington, UT with his beautiful wife and three high-achieving children, and Morkie (half Yorkshire Terrier/half Maltese). He loves to fish the Yellowstone River and the Oregon coast (catch and release only), read journal articles, bake artisan bread, and do construction and remodeling projects.

Rob worked for the state for nearly four years before coming to the SCSB. He has been a tax economist, but most notably a community analysis and planning specialist where he earned many accolades. Rob loves education. He's almost a Ph.D. in Political Science at the U. He holds a Master of Public Administration and a Master of Public Policy, a graduate certificate in Urban Planning and Bachelor of Arts in

communication. -- *Jennifer*

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HB 242 Summary

In this latest legislative session, the legislature passed HB242 which will go into effect in May. This new law does affect charter schools. Below is a summary of some of the changes in that affect charter schools:

1. Establishes an initial review period of three years for new charter schools. After this three-year period, the charter school would need to demonstrate the following to qualify for an ongoing contract:
 - a. fidelity to their Charter Agreement
 - b. that academic standards are met
 - c. the school is financially viable
 - d. the schools governing board is meeting governance standards
2. Requires charter schools to use fund and program accounting methods and standardized account codes to produce financial reports that comply with GAAP and the requirements outlined in 53E-3-501.
3. To ensure a charter school's compliance with state and federal law and to assist in the liquidation or disposition of a charter schools' assets of a closing schools, a charter school authorizer may request financial information related to the charter school from a contracted party.
4. A charter school shall include in an agreement with a subsidiary of the charter school or a contracting entity a provision that stipulates that documents held by the subsidiary or a contracting entity, that are necessary to demonstrate the charter school's financial compliance with federal or state law, are the property of the charter school.
5. An authorizer can now transfer operation and control of a charter school to a high performing charter school including reconstituting the governing board to effectuate the transfer.
6. Charter school governing boards are now prohibited from removing a director, business manager or board member appointed by the authorizer for up to 1 year.
7. An authorizer may now appoint a receiver to aid in the closing of a school.
8. The authorizer may allow a nearby charter school to overenroll its max enrollment to accommodate the students of a closing charter school.
9. A charter school may give enrollment preference to students of a closed charter school.

Dear Dr. Ed,

I am so over everything today! There's no shortage of bad news when it comes to COVID-19. It is impacting every aspect of my life. I have never been so stressed or overwhelmed before. Any ideas on what I can do to lessen the negativity and toll it is taking on my daily life?

Sincerely, Over It

Dear Over It,

In the field of psychology, negativity bias is “the notion that, even when of equal intensity, things of a more negative nature have a greater effect on one's psychological state and processes than neutral or positive things.” The way to override that primal alarm is to drown it out with things that are positive, heartwarming and encouraging. One study suggests we need at least 5 times as much positive stimuli to counteract the negative. When we look for them, there are many silver linings to these otherwise tumultuous times. You just have to be intentional about finding them. These five ways are a good start.

1. Humanity. Focus on the stories that remind you of the goodness of humanity and the power of human connection. Actively seek and share stories like those that celebrate the best of the human spirit. Much better than images of people

hoarding toilet paper, right?

2. Time. Time may be the greatest gift of this devastating crisis. How can you spend that time in a way that will bring you joy and happiness—now and for the future? When life was normal, what did you wish you could do, that you just never had time for?

3. Serendipity. While COVID-19 is seriously distressing, some of the disruption comes with unexpected benefits, such as the positive impact on the environment. The sky is clearer over much of the world, thanks to fewer cars on the road and aircraft in the sky. Are you on the lookout for serendipity?

4. Generosity. Did you know being generous is good for your health? When you give, you increase your self-esteem and self-worth. It also gives your immune system a boost. Doing good doesn't require fame or privilege; generosity is even more infectious than the disease itself.

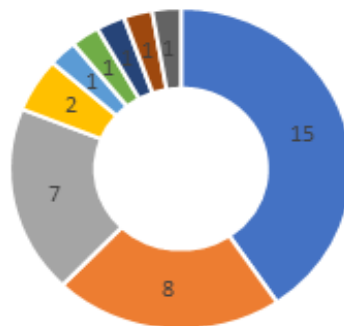
5. Humor. It may seem hard to find the humor in such a widespread, devastating crisis, but there's humor all around if you pay attention. “Laughter relaxes your body, boosts the immune system, triggers the release of endorphins, protects the heart and burns calories.” The next time you want to check for another crisis update online, reach for something funny instead. Stop feeding your mind a diet of doom. Laugh. Give. Appreciate. Acknowledge. Support. Nix the negativity and lift your spirits to new heights.

—*Dr. Ed U. Tation* (from forbes.com)

Theme of the Month

Staff compiled all the audit findings from your FY19 audited financial statements to see if there were patterns of non-compliance so we can focus our trainings in those areas. Out of 101 LEA's, 71 LEA's had no audit findings in their financial statements while 30 LEA's had one or more audit findings (23 LEA's had one audit finding, 6 LEA's had two audit findings, and 1 LEA had three audit findings.) As you can see below, about 30% of our LEA's had findings related to Budget Compliance, Program Accounting, or the Open and Public Meetings Act. For more information on Budget Compliance go to [§53G-7-Part 3](#); Program Accounting [R277-113](#); and The Open and Public Meetings Act [§52-4-Part 2](#).

Summary of FY19 Audit Findings



- Budgetary Compliance
- Open and Public Meetings Act
- Program Expenditures & Accounting
- Public Treasure Bond
- Availability of Budget Information
- Board Meetings and Minutes
- No description
- School fees
- SPED

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](#)
- The State Charter School Board has a School Calendar Guidance Form available [on our website](#)
- Work with an awesome charter school colleague at a SCSB authorized school? Nominate them for Employee of the Month at <https://forms.gle/dtEGG9EdnGkjrHP7A>
- Topic: Informal Charter Director Check In
Time: May 5, 2020 02:30 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85087186914?pwd=ZHo3UEswdDRiZXNxWThwaTEzSTA0Zz09>
Meeting ID: 850 8718 6914
Password: 1zkxux
- Mentoring trainings are available at <https://www.utahscsb.org/mentoring>.
Contact Marie.Steffensen@schools.utah.gov for more information.



Outstanding in Our Field

- Governor Gary Herbert recorded a message to Utah students that we hope you will all share <https://t.co/HPrNni2EFP?amp=1>
- Beehive's STEM Teacher, Kerrie Upenieks is awarded the "Teacher of the Year" by the Best of State, Utah.
- Here's a nice little article in the St. George News highlighting educators. Tuacahn got a nice little shout out at the end of the articles. <https://www.stgeorgeutah.com/news/archive/2020/03/29/asd-were-writing-the-book-as-were-living-it-from-elementary-to-university-educators-pivot-in-unique-situation/#.XrHKnahKhPZ>

May 2020

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

June 2020

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