



# Charter Connection

## September 2020

YOUR MONTHLY UPDATE FOR ALL THINGS CHARTER

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### Director's Message

This has been quite the summer! There has been so much to do to prepare for this year. I stand in amazement at your flexibility and dedication to educate Utah's students in these unique and challenging times. If ever there is anything you need from our staff, please feel free to reach out by finding the appropriate staff member at [www.utahscsb.org/staff](http://www.utahscsb.org/staff).

We are confident that this new school year will demand a lot of growth from all of us, yet we know that if any group is ready for that challenge it is Utah's charter schools. Thank you for continuing to rise to the occasion.

As a reminder, remember to enter your enrollment projections into UCAP. It is open for your projection submissions between September 1st through October 1st.

--*Jennifer*

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## FASB to GASB transition

In the past, most Utah Charter Schools reported under the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB"). But, with the passage of H.B. 242 "Charter School Operations and School Accounting Amendments," all Utah Charter Schools are now required to follow the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) set forth by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). This requirement goes into effect starting with the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Back in July, the State Charter School Board (SCSB) contracted with Clifton Larsen Allen (CLA) to conduct an online training session to educate charter schools on GASB basics, differences between FASB and GASB, and the impacts on financial reporting.

You can find a link to view this training and presentation materials on our website at:

<https://www.utahscsb.org/finance>

## Dear Dr. Ed,

I am stressed about masks! I understand that we are required to wear them at school, but I am just not sure how to make it less scary, less divisive, and ultimately more fun for my students and teachers.

Any tips?

Sincerely,

The Masked Director

Dear Masked Director,

Here are some ideas you may want to try:

1. Face masks and superhero powers: This is a new focused attention practice designed around masks. Ask students what superhero they are and ask them all to create a power pose. As they hold this pose, have them breathe in three deep breaths, hold for a couple of seconds, and then breathe out a superpower they wish to send to themselves, someone they care about, or the world.

2. Morning meeting questions: These are some questions teachers can use in the first week or two as students get used to their masks and each other. How does a mask protect us? Do you know of any superheroes that wear masks? Maybe we could all design our own dream masks on paper? What colors, shapes, and designs do you want on your mask?

3. Theme weeks: The first weeks of school are going to feel rough for many educators and students. Sometimes redirecting our attention away from our masks can more easily occur if we focus on something else. One way to do that is to designate theme weeks with a variety of associations and connections. Ideas include things like Favorite Color Week, Animal Week, Favorite Tradition Week, Artist Week, Music Week, and My Buddy Week. You can also ask students for suggestions so that they feel empowered by the themes. Teachers and students together can also come up with activities for the themes.

4. Emotion reading practice: We are capable of reading facial expressions from the eyes up. Teachers can spend a few minutes a day practicing this. Have a student wearing a mask think of a feeling and try to express that with their face and ask the class to guess the emotion or feeling. Another option is to put little masks on the emojis on feeling charts. Students can work to become experts at reading facial expressions of people wearing masks, which could be a fun ritual that reduces anxiety and fear.

Good luck and have fun!

—*Dr. Ed U. Cation*

## Theme of the Month

Recently, the State Charter School Board has received a number of complaints regarding the wearing of masks at school. We would like to remind schools that the Governor's mandate requires all persons on school property to wear a mask that covers both the nose and chin. Face shields do not meet the mask requirement unless as used as directed by the exemptions. Schools are to accept the exemptions allowed in the Governor's mandate and students that qualify for these exemptions must be allowed to be taught alongside their peers. Isolating mask exempt students or prohibiting mask exempt students from in-person learning or activities is illegal. The State has put out an excellent FAQ on the wearing of masks and their exemptions. This FAQ can be found here [https://coronavirus-download.utah.gov/Health/Mask\\_Order\\_FAQ.pdf](https://coronavirus-download.utah.gov/Health/Mask_Order_FAQ.pdf). We thank schools for following this law and for all the good they are doing in these trying times.

# 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](#)
- Work with an awesome charter school colleague at a SCSB authorized school? Nominate them for Employee of the Month at <https://forms.gle/dtEGG9EdnGkjrHP7A>
- Looking for resources concerning the coronavirus? <https://schools.utah.gov/coronavirus>
- Mentoring trainings are available at <https://www.utahscsb.org/mentoring>. Contact [Marie.Steffensen@schools.utah.gov](mailto:Marie.Steffensen@schools.utah.gov) for more information.



## Outstanding in Our Field

- Mountain Heights Academy was awarded Best of State for Curriculum Development!
- For the President's Volunteer Service Award, Beehive Academy principal Hanifi Oguz received the silver medal and students Hakan Kariparduc and Betul Oguz received the gold medal!!!

## September 2020

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

## October 2020

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