

# DECEMBER



# Charter Connection December 2019

YOUR MONTHLY UPDATE FOR ALL THINGS CHARTER

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## Director's Message

We hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving. We here at the SCSB staff want to express our gratitude to all you for the diligent work that you perform on behalf of Utah's students and we urge you to continue those efforts.

It is our statutory responsibility to conduct oversight of our authorized schools and sometimes this oversight reveals issues that need to be addressed. Please know that we are cognizant that many of you are performing extremely well! We applaud your work and want you to know that you have nothing to worry about. Just keep being great!

-- Jennifer

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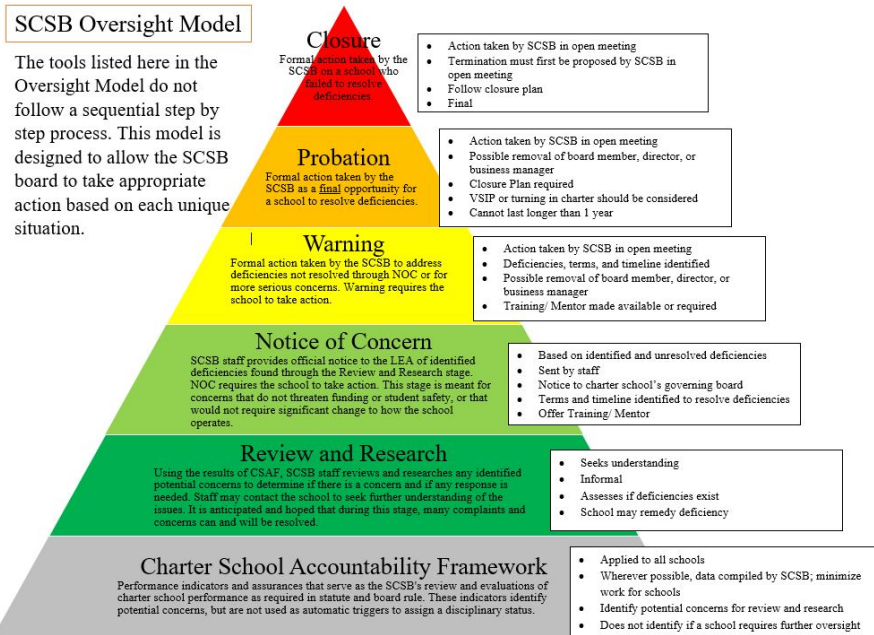
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## State Charter School Board Oversight Model (CSAF)

The SCSB Oversight Model does not follow a sequential step-by-step process but allows for the SCSB to determine the level of oversight based on the seriousness of the identified deficiencies. If identified deficiencies are minor or easily resolved, the SCSB staff works with schools to resolve the deficiencies with a Notice of Concern. If identified deficiencies are of a more serious concern, SCSB staff will recommend the school be brought to an SCSB meeting where the SCSB may place the school on Warning, Probation or even propose terminating the Charter Agreement. Many schools have successfully resolved identified deficiencies through this Oversight Model. If deficiencies are identified at your school, work with the SCSB staff in an open, honest way to remedy the deficiencies.



## Dear Dr. Ed,

It is that time of year again. My board has asked me to start working on a draft of the school calendar for the 2020-2021 school year. I have heard many different opinions as to what is allowed as variances, and I am not sure what else I need to be aware of. Is there somewhere that can guide me? Should I just copy another school's calendar? HELP!

Sincerely,

Just Trying to Get Through Today

Dear Just Trying to Get Through Today,

One of the best places to always look when you are unsure is what is in statute or administrative code. The rule regarding school calendars can be found in R277-419, and it was updated as of Oct. 1, 2019! Also, your friendly authorizer, the State Charter School Board, has a School Calendar Guidance Form available on their website, found here: <https://www.utahscsb.org/general>

Since you took the time to write to me, I will include a few high-level overview points here too.

LEAs are required to conduct school for at least 990 instructional hours and 180 school days each school year. 2 hours per day is the minimum for kindergarten, and 4 hours per day is the minimum for 1st – 12th grades. School days do not have to be the same length.

School day calculations exclude lunch periods and pass time between classes. Variances can be “up to” 32 hours (or 4 days) for Staff Professional Development, 16.5 hours (or 3 full-days) for parent teacher and Student Education Plan (SEP) conferences, and 12 days for Kindergarten assessments at the beginning and end of the school year.

Total instructional time and school calendars must be approved by the LEA in an open meeting – typically at least 90 days before the beginning of the next school year. Schools should plan for emergency, activity, and weather-related exigency time in the annual calendar. If school is closed for any reason, the school must make up the instructional time missed to qualify for full funding.

Waivers may be sought for the school day count. The Board may waive the school day and hour requirement, pursuant to a directive from the Utah State Health Department or a local health department, that results in the closure of a school in the event of a pandemic or other public health emergency.

Charter School Calendars must include first and last day of school, scheduled holidays, scheduled PD days, and scheduled non-school days. School Calendars are a local control issue.

Best of luck with the calendar creation!

*--Dr. Ed U. Tation*

## Theme of the Month

Deferred Revenues sometimes called Unearned Revenues are payments that your school received in advance but haven't earned. For example, if at the beginning of the year you are paid for a program that is administered throughout the year, those funds are deferred/unearned throughout the year until you have earned/provided the service required in the program. Deferred Revenues are reported as a liability until they are earned. It is important to monitor the amount of Deferred Revenues you have because these are payments that have been paid to your school in advance; therefore, when you earn it, you won't be paid for it. If your Deferred Revenues are increasing from year-to-year, you may be asked to pay it back because it suggests that you are not using/earning the funds that you have received.

Now is a good time to determine the amount of Deferred Revenues you have on your books so that you can earn them before the end of the school year and not carry a liability into the next school year. Some of the common programs that have Deferred Revenues include State Special Ed, Gifted & Talented, Advanced Placement, Concurrent Enrollment, Enhancement for At Risk Students, Youth in Custody, School Land Trust etc. This is the first year that the Utah State Board of Education is mandating that Federal and State, not Local, Deferred Revenues be reported in [Utah Public Education Financial System \(UPEFS\)](#). The report is due on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

# 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  
<http://training.auditor.utah.gov/courses/open-and-public-meetings-act-2019>
- The State Charter School Board has a School Calendar Guidance Form available on their website, found here:  
<https://www.utahscsb.org/general>
- The State Charter School Board is excited to offer a free professional development seminar for Utah charter schoolteachers and leaders. See the attached flyer for more information.  
<https://twitter.com/UtahSCSB/status/1199029110812663809?s=20>
- The American Psychological Foundation is currently seeking applications for the Esther Katz Rosen Pre-college Psychology Grant Program (up to \$15,000). For more information, visit  
<https://www.apa.org/apf/funding/rose-n-precollege?tab=3>.
- The Training and Event Calendar for December is available at  
<https://twitter.com/UtahSCSB/status/1200497277170835458?s=20>



## Outstanding in Our Field

- Congratulations to the wonderful students of Winter Sports School who graduated on November 15<sup>th</sup>!
- Students Jennifer Klein and Karlee Genter received a \$500 Association of American Educators Foundation Fall 2019 National Teacher Scholarship & Classroom grant to implement a Perspective Project at Mountain Heights Academy. Awesome!

## December 2019

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

## January 2020

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