

UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Subject:

ACTION: Utah Adult Education Program Supervision Study

Agenda item type:

Action Item

Recommended Action:

That the Committee approves that the Adult Education staff move forward with a study to determine if the program should be moved forward to the full Board on second and final reading.

Background:

Utah Adult Education offers three types of services to adult students who are out of school and 16 years of age or older:

- Adult Basic Education: academic instruction below the ninth-grade level
- Adult Secondary Completion: 24 credit high school diploma or GED test preparation
- English Language Acquisition: reading, writing, speaking, and listening instruction in English for multilingual learners

Currently, Utah's Adult Education program is under the supervision of the Utah State Board of Education (USBE).

In consideration of the emphasis placed on transitioning adult education students to college and/or a career, the Board is studying if Utah's Adult Education program should be moved to the Utah System of Higher Education (USHE). This is being studied because of USHE's emphasis on serving adults and because the move will facilitate additional opportunities for students and opportunities that will prepare them to succeed in Utah's workforce. In addition, adult education programs would feel more comfortable and excited about attending (i.e. reciprocal determinism). The move could operate while preserving the core services that Utah Adult Education currently offers students, such as the credit-based high school diploma. The move is aligned with the Utah Board of Higher Education's strategic plan under the Workforce Alignment priority, which is to "increase the higher ed participation rate of adults with/without a high school diploma" (https://ushe.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/21_tab_d.pdf). The possible move is also aligned with the purpose of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funds and was "designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to become skilled workers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy" (<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/wioa/about#:~:text=The%20Workforce%20Innovation%20and%20Opportunity,act>).

The possible move would necessitate a legislative change in statutes 53E-10-2 and 53F-2-401 to reflect the change.

Contact:

Stephanie Patton
Education Specialist
801-538-7989

Stephanie.patton@schools.utah.gov

Leah Voorhies
Associate Superintendent of Student Support
801-538-7898

Leah.voorhies@schools.utah.gov

Attachments:

None