Date: June 17, 2025

To: SLCSD Board of Education
Dr. Elizabeth Grant, Superintendent

From: Dr. Tiffany Hall, Executive Director, Teaching and Learning

Subject: Honors Diploma Proposal

The district has engaged in a review of the existing diploma pathway to ensure we are supporting all students in meeting diverse academic goals, postsecondary plans, and workforce readiness needs.

This presentation will provide the Board with an overview of current graduation requirements in SLCSD and in the other 40 districts in Utah. It will allow the board to examine and discuss potential pathways to expand or refine the district's priorities and requirements for graduation.

The presentation will include:

- A summary of current district diploma requirements
- Comparative data on diploma options in other Utah districts
- Potential models for consideration
- Additional considerations for future conversations

Following the presentation, Board members will be invited to provide input on key priorities and considerations. This guidance will help shape the next phase of planning, including stakeholder consultation and potential updates to Board policy.

Requested Board Action:

No action is requested at this meeting.

Attachments:

- PowerPoint presentation
- SLCSD Administrative Procedure I-2: Requirements for Graduation
- Overview of Utah Public District Graduation Requirements

Honors Diploma Proposal

June 17, 2025

Board Goals

Attendance

- Increase engagement and reduce chronic attendance
- Identify patterns to provide targeted support for customized interventions
- Reach a 90% participation rate among families and community members in ongoing attendance initiatives, fostering a collaborative approach to reducing absenteeism

College and Career Preparation Pathways

- 50% of students are pathway completers (3.0 credits in a pathway)
- 75% of students are pathway concentrators (2.0 credits in a pathway)
- 20% concurrent enrollment (CE) participation for grades 9-12

Major Target: Reduce chronic absenteeism from 28% to 10% by 2029

Major Target: 100% of students on a career or college pathway by 2029

SLCSD Currently

- 24 credits required to graduate (state minimum)

- Students can earn 8 credits per year
  (32 credits possible in four years, 28 with seminary)

- In 2024-25, _% of seniors had less than a full schedule

  - Missed learning opportunities, including opportunities to earn college credit and stackable credentials

Districts in Utah

- 41 districts

- 6 districts require only 24 credits to graduate:
  - Daggett
  - North Summit
  - Rich
  - Salt Lake City
  - Sevier
  - Tintic

- 35 districts require more than 24 credits to graduate

Statewide Diploma Type Examples

- Standard/Basic diploma – no school name

- Named/School diploma – lists both district and school name

- Honors/Advanced diploma – adds requirements and recognition

Proposal Considerations

- Increase required graduation credits to 25 or more

- Specify where the additional credits would be required

  - Specific graduation areas

  - Additional elective credits in any area

- Identify diploma expectations

  - More credits

  - Full schedule + GPA

  - Specific credits (i.e., additional math, science, CTE, etc.)

Additional considerations

- Timeline (phasing in additional requirements)

- Staffing

- Scheduling

Board Discussion

I-2: Requirements for Graduation

IMPLEMENTATION OF PROCEDURES

Subject Area	Credit	Description
Language Arts/English	4.0	Must complete four credits, including three foundation courses: a) English 9 b) English 10 c) English 11, IB, AP Lit, AP Lang, or concurrent enrollment The fourth unit will be from the Applied and Advanced Course list (attached).
Social Studies	3.0	Must complete all of the following: a) World Geography 0.5 – Grade 9 b) World History 0.5 – Grades 10-12 c) U.S. History 1.0 – Grades 10-12 d) U.S. Government and Citizenship 0.5 e) Social Studies elective 0.5
Mathematics	3.0	Must complete three credits from the foundation courses: a) Secondary I b) Secondary II c) Secondary III The third unit of mathematics may be from the Foundation Courses or from the Applied Courses list (attached) with written parent request.
Science	3.0	Must complete three credits with at least one course from two of the five science foundation areas: a) Earth Science b) Biology c) Chemistry d) Physics e) Computer Science The third unit of science may be from the Foundation courses or from the Applied and Advanced Courses list (attached).
Fine Arts	1.5	Must complete 1.5 credits from any of the following areas: a) Visual Arts b) Dance c) Theatre d) Music e) Media Arts
Career and Technical Education	1.0	Must complete 1.0 credits from any of the following areas: a) Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources b) Architecture and Construction c) Arts, Audio/Visual Technology and Communications d) Health Science e) Computer Science and Information Technology f) Business, Finance, and Marketing g) Engineering and Technology

		h) Health Science i) Education and Training j) Hospitality and Tourism k) Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security l) Manufacturing m) Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics n) Naval Science 4
Digital Studies	0.5	Must complete 0.5 credit from the following: a) Business Office Specialist b) Computer Programming 1 c) Computer Science Principles d) Digital Business Application e) Exploring Computer Science f) Web Development 1
Financial Literacy	0.5	
Health Education	0.5	
Physical Education	1.5	Must complete all of the following: a) Fitness for Life 0.5 b) Participation Skills 0.5 / or Team Sport/Athletics 0.5 c) Individualized Lifetime Activities 0.5 / or Team Sport/Athletics 0.5 / or 0.5 of Naval Science 1 (must complete the full year)
Electives	5.5	
Total Credits Required	24.0	
Additional Requirements		Passage of Basic Civics Test or alternate assessment

CURRENT COURSES MEETING THE CRITERIA FOR GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

LANGUAGE ARTS
A total of 4.0 credits: 3.0 credits from the Foundations Courses list **plus** *1.0 credits from the Applied and Advanced Courses list.*

Foundation Courses	Applied and Advanced Courses	

English 9 (required)
English 10 (required)
English 11 (required or courses listed below)
  Concurrent Enrollment Courses*+
  International Baccalaureate Classes*+
  AP Literature and Composition *+
  AP Language and Composition *+
	12th Grade Language Arts
	Reading 1 and 2
	Business Communication
	College Prep Language Arts
	Creative Writing 1 and Adv
	Debate
		Humanities
		Journalism
		Literature
		Technical and Professional
		  Communication
		World Languages 3, 4, CE, or AP

	Communications ELA 12 0.5 Credit Courses *If the course earns 1.0 credit, only 0.5 credit can be used for ELA 12 credit.*	
	Naval Science 4 Civics & Communication	

Language Arts Notes: +These courses can also be used for the one credit in Applied and Advanced (Language Arts 12).

MATHEMATICS

A total of 3.0 credits from Foundation Courses list (Secondary I, II, and III). Secondary III can be replaced by an Applied course with written parent request. Some applied courses do not meet college/university requirements.

Foundation Courses	Applied and Advanced Courses	
	Applied Courses (alternatives for Secondary III)	*Advanced Courses* (following Secondary III)
Secondary I Secondary II Secondary III	Accounting I and II^ Computer Programming 1^ Data Science Introductory Statistics Mathematical Decision Making for Life Small Business Math and Start Up^ Medical Math Modern Mathematics AP Computer Science A^	AP Calculus AB or BC AP Precalculus AP Statistics College Prep Math Concurrent Enrollment* 1010, 1030, 1040, 1050, or 1060 International Baccalaureate Classes Introductory Calculus Precalculus

SCIENCE

*A total of 3.0 credits: 1.0 credits from two (2) of the five (5) areas of science on the Foundation Courses list **plus** 1.0 credits from the Foundation Courses list or the Applied and Advanced Courses list.*

Foundation Courses				
Earth Science Earth and Space Science AP Environmental Science IB Environmental Systems	**Biology** Biology Biology: Agriculture Science Technology AP or IB Biology Biology with Lab CE*	**Chemistry** Chemistry AP or IB Chemistry Chemistry with Lab CE*	**Physics** Physics AP or IB Physics Physics with Lab CE*	**Computer Science** AP or CE Computer Science Principles AP Computer Science A^ Computer Programming 2^

Applied or Advanced Courses in SLCSD		
Electronics 1, 2, 3^ Agricultural Biotechnology^ Astronomy Biotechnology^ Botany Computer Science Principles^ Ecology Engineering Capstone ^	Engineering Principles 1, 2^ Environmental Science Geology Genetics Human Anatomy Marine Biology/Oceanography Material Science Medical Anatomy and Physiology^	Medical Forensics^ Meteorology Robotics 1, 2^ Wildlife Biology Zoology Concurrent Enrollment Courses^ International Baccalaureate Classes

^Offered through the CTE Department

Social Studies

A total of 3.0 credits: 2.5 from the Foundations Course list and 0.5 elective from any social studies area. This can include an additional 0.5 added to any of the required half-credit courses.

Foundation Courses			
World History (0.5) World History I or II AP European History AP World History HIST 1100 & 1110 CE* if both taken	**World Geography (0.5)** World Geography I or II AP Human Geography World/Cultural Geography CE*	**U.S. History (1.0)** U.S. History AP U.S. History HIST 1700 CE*, if offered in a full year HIST 2700 & 2710 CE* if both taken	**U.S. Government and Citizenship (0.5)** U.S. Government and Citizenship AP US Government & Politics Political Science CE*

Social Studies, con't		
Elective Courses		
American Government and Law Anthropology AP Comparative Government & Politics AP Economics-Macro AP Economics-Micro AP Psychology	Civics Civics & Communication Clemente Humanities I or II Criminal Justice Current Issues Economics Economics Elective CE* Introduction to Philosophy Introduction to Philosophy CE*	Latin American Studies Native American Studies Political Science Psychology Sociology

*Concurrent enrollment (CE) courses are offered through college/university language arts, world language, social studies, mathematics, or science departments.

NOTE: Teachers currently meeting state license and endorsement requirements for an approved applied or advanced course are qualified to teach that course.

New applied, advanced, and supplemental courses may be requested using the form found at
https://apex.slcschools.org/apex/r/slcsd/course-request/my-course-requests?session=281781238747.

New courses must be approved by the SIC and the District Curriculum Committee. Courses should not be considered approved until they have been made active in PowerSchool.

Language Arts
Determined by the local school board and approved by USBE, using the following criteria:
1.   courses are within the field/discipline of language arts, aligned with the Utah Core Standards, and demonstrate a significant portion of instruction aligned to language arts content, principles, knowledge, and skills:
2.   courses provide instruction that leads to student understanding of the nature and disposition of language arts;
3.   courses apply the fundamental concepts and skills of language arts;
4.   courses provide developmentally appropriate content; and
5.   courses develop skills in reading, writing, and inquiry.

Mathematics
Determined by the local school board and approved by USBE, using the following criteria:
1.   courses are within the field/discipline of mathematics, aligned with the Utah Core Standards, and demonstrate a significant portion of instruction aligned to mathematics content, principles, knowledge, and skills:
2.   courses provide instruction that leads to student understanding of the nature and disposition of mathematics;
3.   courses apply the fundamental concepts and skills of mathematics;
4.   courses provide developmentally appropriate content; and
5.   courses include the five process skills of mathematics: problem solving, reasoning, communication, connections, and representation.

Science
Determined by the local school board and approved by USBE, using the following criteria:
1.   courses are within the field/discipline of science, aligned with the Utah Core Standards, and demonstrate a significant portion of instruction aligned to science content, principles, knowledge, and skills:
2.   courses provide instruction that leads to student understanding of the nature and disposition of science;
3.   courses apply the fundamental concepts and skills of science;
4.   courses provide developmentally appropriate content;
5.   courses include the areas of physical, natural, or applied sciences; and
6.   courses develop students' skills in scientific inquiry.

Overview of Utah Public District Graduation Requirements June 2025

LEA	Diploma above 24 credits	Changes
Alpine	Yes - 28 Credits	+4.0 elective
Beaver	Yes - 32 Credits	+0.5 PE, Financial Lit, 1.0 CTE +6.0 elective
Box Elder	Yes - 24-30 Credits	+0.5 ELA, Math, PE +5.0 elective
Cache	Yes - 25 Credits	+1.0 elective
Canyons	Yes – 26 or 28 (trimester or semester)	+2.0 – 4.0 elective
Carbon	Yes - 30 Credits	+1.0 CTE +5.0 elective
Daggett	No	-
Davis	Yes – 27 Credits	+0.5 World Civilizations +2.5 elective
Duchesne	Yes – 36 Credits	+1.0 Math +11.0 elective
Emery	Yes - 31 Credits	+0.5 Digital Stds, Financial Lit, 1.0 CTE +5.0 elective
Garfield	Yes - 36 Credits	+0.5 Health, CTE, Family Relationships +10.5 elective
Grand	Yes - 28 Credits	+4.0 elective
Granite	Yes - 27 Credits (school diploma)	+3.0 elective
Iron	Yes – up to 29 Credits (school diploma per school)	<+5.0 elective
Jordan	Yes - 27 Credits	+ 3.0 elective
Juab	Yes - 32 Credits	+8.0 elective
Kane	Yes - 36 credits	+12.0 elective
Logan	Yes - 27 Credits	+1.0 World Language +2.0 elective
Millard	Yes - 28 Credits	+4.0 elective
Morgan	Yes - 30 Credits (trimester)	+_ elective
Murray	Yes – 27 Credits	+3.0 elective

Nebo	Yes - 26 Credits	+2.0 elective
North Sanpete	Yes - 28	+3.0 elective
North Summit	No	-
Ogden	Yes – 28 Credits	+3.0 elective
Park City	Yes - 28 Credits	+3.0 elective
Piute	Yes - 32 Credits	+8.0 elective
Provo	Yes - 27 Credits (advanced)	+3.0 elective
Rich	No	-
Salt Lake City	No	-
San Juan	Yes - 26 Credits	+2.0 elective
Sevier	No	-
South Sanpete	Yes – 28 Credits	+4.0 elective
South Summit	Yes - 32 Credits	+1.0 CTE +7.0 elective
Tintic	No	-
Tooele	Yes - 28 Credits	+1.0 CTE +3.0 elective
Uintah	Yes - 26 Credits	+2.0 elective
Wasatch	Yes - 28 Credits	+4.0 elective
Washington	Yes – 27-34 Credits (school dependent)	+ _ elective
Wayne	Yes - 36 Credits	+1.0 Teen & Adult Living +11 elective
Weber	Yes - 27 Credits	+3.0 elective

Sample diploma types and requirements

- Advanced Diploma: The Advanced Diploma requires students to complete the credits of the Standard Diploma, prescribed coursework and a minimum G.P.A. requirement.
- Alternate Diploma: This diploma is available for students with significant cognitive disabilities who are still accessing core standards through the essential electives. Students earning this diploma must complete all required core curriculum credit requirements or those substitutions, exemptions, and modifications currently allowable under the Utah State Special Education credit guidelines.
- Basic Diploma: This diploma is available for extenuating circumstances upon administrative approval. Students earning this diploma must complete all required core curriculum credit requirements.
- Certificate of Completion: Means a certificate that may be awarded to a special education student who: (1) has completed the student's senior year; (2) is exiting or aging out of the school system; and (3) has not met all state or District requirements for a diploma as determined by the IEP team.
- Honors Diploma: The Honors Diploma requires students to complete the requirements of the Advanced Diploma, and in addition attain College Readiness Benchmarks Scores on the ACT college-entrance exam and a minimum G.P.A. requirement.
- Standard Diploma: A Standard Diploma requires a student complete all requirements set forth by the Utah State Education and School District.