



**Date:** July 15, 2025

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

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

**Subject:** Diploma Proposal

This presentation is a continuation of a conversation started at the June 17, 2025 meeting to provide the Board of Education with an overview of current and proposed diploma options within the Salt Lake City School District. This presentation will outline potential adjustments to graduation that support student success and college and career readiness.

**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 and sample diploma types



# Diploma Proposal

July 15, 2025



Review from June 17, 2025



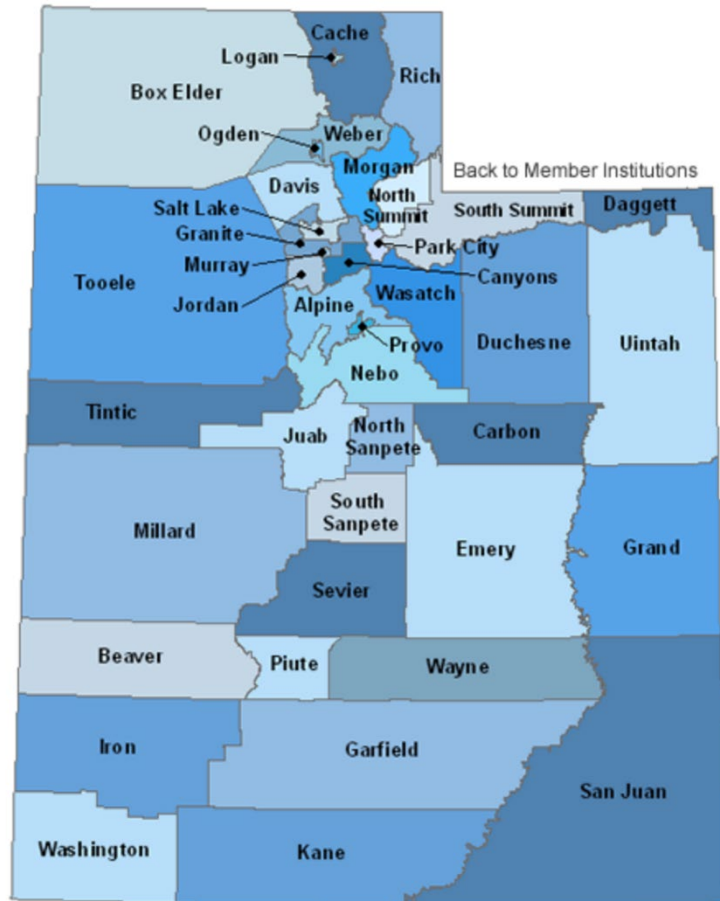
## In SLCSD...

- 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, 80%+ of seniors had less than a full schedule
  - Missed learning opportunities, including opportunities to earn college credit and stackable credentials



# Districts in Utah

## Utah School Districts:



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



# Alignment to Board Goals

## Attendance

- Increase engagement and reduce chronic attendance

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

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





Board's Discussion Tonight



# Diploma Type Examples

## Basic diploma (24 credits)

The **basic diploma** is awarded by a **district** to students who have successfully completed the Utah State Board of Education's minimum graduation requirement of 24 credits. This diploma does not reference a specific school and is intended to certify that a student has met all foundational state-mandated academic requirements for high school graduation.

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## Standard diploma (26-28 credits)

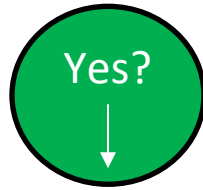
The **standard diploma** is awarded by the student's enrolled high school and includes the completion of 26 to 28 total credits, exceeding the state's minimum graduation requirement of 24 credits. These additional units will align with a student's academic interests and postsecondary goals.

This diploma reflects a broader course of study and includes the **name of the issuing high school**. It signifies both state and district academic achievement.



# Considerations for a Board Discussion

Should the district create a **standard diploma** that **includes 26–28 total credits**, exceeding the state minimum of 24 credits, **issued by the individual high school**, with the **school's name printed on the diploma** to reflect the student's affiliation and full participation in that school community?



Should the **additional credits** for the Standard Diploma be **elective credits** – allowing students to choose courses aligned with their interests and postsecondary plans, **OR designated content area credits** – requiring coursework in specific subjects such as **World Language, Science, or Fine Arts** that align with college/career readiness goals?



# Questions from June 17 meeting

**How would requirements for specific classes affect programs such as IB or AP?**



If the additional credits are designated as **general electives**, they will **not impact existing program requirements**, since any coursework beyond the state-required 24 units is considered elective.

However, if the additional credits are **assigned to a specific subject area or course**, they **could interfere with students' ability to participate** in specialized programs such as the **International Baccalaureate (IB)** at Highland and West High Schools, or the **AP Capstone Diploma** Program at East High School, which have tightly structured course sequences.



## Questions from June 17, cont

Does the question of weighted grades need to be addressed first?



No. Since students **choose which courses to take**, the question of weighting does not need to be resolved prior to implementing the additional credits.

These additional credits **may or may not be in weighted courses**, depending on each student's individual selections.

How would changes to district requirements for a standard diploma affect school-specific awards?



Changes to the district's diploma requirements would **not limit or alter school-specific awards or recognitions**. Each school will continue to have the flexibility to **define and grant honors, cords, certificates, and other distinctions** based on their own criteria, traditions, and priorities.



# Timeline: when would changes be implemented?



## Recommended:

- Class of 2030 > freshman in 2026-2027
- This would allow the district time to communicate the new requirements to all administrators, counselors, teachers, and families



# Recommendations

Establish a **standard diploma** issued by individual schools that requires the completion of **27 total units**, including the **24 units required by the state** and **3 additional elective units**. These elective credits will allow students to select courses aligned with their individual interests, strengths, and post-secondary goals.

Designate the current **24-unit basic diploma**—which meets only the Utah state graduation requirements—to be **issued by the Salt Lake City School District** rather than individual schools. This diploma will not reference a specific school name and will serve as a district-level credential.

Changes would be in effect for the Class of 2030.



# Considerations for future conversations

The Board could consider creating a **district-wide standard for District Honors recognition** to ensure **consistency, equity, and clarity** in how academic distinction is awarded.

This could include establishing uniform criteria for:

- **Graduation honors designations** (e.g., Honors, High Honors, Highest Honors)
- **Minimum GPA thresholds**
- **Achievement on ACT or other assessments**
- **Recognition at graduation and on transcripts**

Standardizing a district recognition would support transparency for students, families, and postsecondary institutions while still allowing schools to celebrate individual achievements.



# I-2: Requirements for Graduation

## IMPLEMENTATION OF PROCEDURES

Subject Area	Credit	Description
Language Arts/English	4.0	<p>Must complete four credits, including three foundation courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) English 9</li> <li>b) English 10</li> <li>c) English 11, IB, AP Lit, AP Lang, or concurrent enrollment</li> </ul> <p>The fourth unit will be from the Applied and Advanced Course list (attached).</p>
Social Studies	3.0	<p>Must complete all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) World Geography 0.5 – Grade 9</li> <li>b) World History 0.5 – Grades 10-12</li> <li>c) U.S. History 1.0 – Grades 10-12</li> <li>d) U.S. Government and Citizenship 0.5</li> <li>e) Social Studies elective 0.5</li> </ul>
Mathematics	3.0	<p>Must complete three credits from the foundation courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Secondary I</li> <li>b) Secondary II</li> <li>c) Secondary III</li> </ul> <p>The third unit of mathematics may be from the Foundation Courses or from the Applied Courses list (attached) with written parent request.</p>
Science	3.0	<p>Must complete three credits with at least one course from two of the five science foundation areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Earth Science</li> <li>b) Biology</li> <li>c) Chemistry</li> <li>d) Physics</li> <li>e) Computer Science</li> </ul> <p>The third unit of science may be from the Foundation courses or from the Applied and Advanced Courses list (attached).</p>
Fine Arts	1.5	<p>Must complete 1.5 credits from any of the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Visual Arts</li> <li>b) Dance</li> <li>c) Theatre</li> <li>d) Music</li> <li>e) Media Arts</li> </ul>
Career and Technical Education	1.0	<p>Must complete 1.0 credits from any of the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources</li> <li>b) Architecture and Construction</li> <li>c) Arts, Audio/Visual Technology and Communications</li> <li>d) Health Science</li> <li>e) Computer Science and Information Technology</li> <li>f) Business, Finance, and Marketing</li> <li>g) Engineering and Technology</li> </ul>

		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		
<i>A total of 4.0 credits: 3.0 credits from the Foundations Courses list <b>plus</b> 1.0 credits from the Applied and Advanced Courses list.</i>		
Foundations 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
	<b>Communications ELA 12 0.5 Credit Courses</b> <i>If the course earns 1.0 credit, only 0.5 credit can be used for ELA 12 credit.</i>	
	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 <sup>^</sup> Computer Programming 1 <sup>^</sup> Data Science Introductory Statistics Mathematical Decision Making for Life Small Business Math and Start Up <sup>^</sup> Medical Math Modern Mathematics AP Computer Science A <sup>^</sup>	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				
<b>Earth Science</b> Earth and Space Science AP Environmental Science IB Environmental Systems	<b>Biology</b> Biology Biology: Agriculture Science Technology AP or IB Biology Biology with Lab CE*	<b>Chemistry</b> Chemistry AP or IB Chemistry Chemistry with Lab CE*	<b>Physics</b> Physics AP or IB Physics Physics with Lab CE*	<b>Computer Science</b> AP or CE Computer Science Principles  AP Computer Science A <sup>^</sup>  Computer Programming 2 <sup>^</sup>
Applied or Advanced Courses in SLCS				
Electronics 1, 2, 3 <sup>^</sup> Agricultural Biotechnology <sup>^</sup> Astronomy Biotechnology <sup>^</sup> Botany Computer Science Principles <sup>^</sup> Ecology Engineering Capstone <sup>^</sup>	Engineering Principles 1, 2 <sup>^</sup> Environmental Science Geology Genetics Human Anatomy Marine Biology/Oceanography Material Science Medical Anatomy and Physiology <sup>^</sup>	Medical Forensics <sup>^</sup> Meteorology Robotics 1, 2 <sup>^</sup> Wildlife Biology Zoology Concurrent Enrollment Courses <sup>^</sup> International Baccalaureate Classes		

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

<i>Social Studies, con't</i>		
<b>Elective Courses</b>		
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.

No district employee or student shall be subjected to discrimination in employment or any district program or activity on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status. The district is committed to providing equal access and equal opportunity in its programs, services and employment including its policies, complaint processes, program accessibility, district facility use, accommodations and other Equal Employment Opportunity matters. The district also provides equal access to district facilities for all youth groups listed in Title 36 of the United States Code, including scouting groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries and complaints regarding unlawful discrimination, harassment, and retaliation: Tina Hatch, Compliance and Investigations/Title IX Coordinator, 406 East 100 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111, (801) 578-8388. You may also contact the Office for Civil Rights, Denver, CO, (303) 844-5695.

## Overview of Utah Public District Graduation Requirements June 2025

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

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