

January 16, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Regents

FROM: David L. Buhler

SUBJECT: Statewide College Access Advisors Update

For the 2019 legislative session, the Board of Regents identified as its top budget priority a statewide program that will establish a permanent, full-time college access advisor for every high school in Utah. This keystone initiative of the Board is the culmination of the efforts of the Board Working Groups and reflects the Board's prioritization of access and affordability issues over the past year.

The current projected cost for state tax funds to implement this program is \$5,995,000, which will be refined as the Board pursues additional funding options and internal reprioritizations. The current funding request will include a one-time funding reduction the first year as the program prepares to scale statewide.

This statewide college access advising program expands the Utah College Advising Corps at the University of Utah, which was initially established under a joint grant from the Board of Regents and the University of Utah from the Jack Kent Cook Foundation, with the original intent to take this program statewide. Under the current program, 12 schools in Utah have a full-time advisor (11 along the Wasatch Front and 1 in St. George, as a partnership between the University of Utah and Dixie State University).

The program will expand statewide, under the direction of the Board of Regents, to every high school in Utah by the school year 2021-2022. As it is implemented across the state, the program will be regionally integrated into local USHE institutions to tie in with their programming and access efforts.

**2019-20 expansion:**

By reprioritizing existing resources within the Commissioner's Office, the college access advising program will expand into 21 additional high schools, to be in a total of 33 high schools for the 2019-20 academic year. This first-year expansion will provide an opportunity to work through implementation details with partner USHE institutions and high schools, better laying the groundwork for the full expansion over the next two years. Staff are working with enrollment and student services leadership at Weber State University, Utah Valley University, and Dixie State University, as well as the districts and high schools within those service regions.

It is anticipated that the following high schools will have full-time college access advisors for 2019-20 school year:

High School	District	Regional Coordinator housed at:
Fremont High	Weber	Weber State University
Weber High	Weber	
Roy High	Weber	
Bonneville High	Weber	
Clearfield High	Davis	
Syracuse High	Davis	
Ben Lomand High	Ogden City	
Odgen High	Ogden City	Utah Valley University
Mountain View	Alpine	
Orem	Alpine	
West Lake	Alpine	
Timpview	Provo	
Provo	Provo	
Springville	Nebo	
Payson	Nebo	Dixie State University
Dixie High	Washington	
Desert Hills High	Washington	
Snow Canyon	Washington	
Crimson High	Washington	
Hurricane High	Washington	
Water Canyon	Washington	
Pine View	Washington	University of Utah
East	Salt Lake City	
West	Salt Lake City	
Highland	Salt Lake City	
Granger	Granite	
Cyprus	Granite	
Hunter	Granite	
Kearns	Granite	
Taylorsville	Granite	
Cottonwood	Granite	
West Jordan	Jordan	
Hillcrest	Canyons	

By June 2019, advisors will be hired to work in these high schools for the 2019-20 academic year along with regional coordinators who will oversee the new advisors and provide embedded service at partner USHE institutions.

**External support:**

The initiative has received formal endorsement from several outside entities including:

- The Governor’s Education Excellence Commission
- Utah State Board of Education
- Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce
- Utah Valley Chamber of Commerce Policy Committee
- Ogden-Weber Chamber of Commerce
- Utah State Superintendents Association
- Utah Secondary Counselors Association
- Women in the Economy Commission
- United Way Promise Partnership Regional Council

Commissioner’s Recommendation

This is an information item; no action required.

DLB/SJ

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David L. Buhler  
Commissioner of Higher Education