



UTAH SYSTEM OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION

# MEMORANDUM

May 18, 2023

## College and Career Pathways Update

### Pathways as a Nationwide Initiative

In November 2022, The United States Department of Education launched “Unlocking Career Success,” a nationwide pathways initiative to reimagine how our nation’s high schools prepare all students to thrive in their future careers. The initiative seeks to blur the lines between high school, college, and career, by providing students with accelerated and innovative opportunities to earn college credits and gain real-world career experiences. According to the Department of Education, an estimated 70% of jobs require education or training beyond high school by 2027.<sup>1</sup>

### Utah’s Statewide Approach to Pathways

Connecting education to the workforce in Utah remains a top priority of the Utah System of Higher Education, Utah State Board of Education, and the Governor’s Office. By 2030, an estimated 71% of jobs in Utah will require high school graduation and some type of training.<sup>2</sup>

To provide the best opportunity for social and economic mobility in Utah, the Office of the Commissioner has assembled a cross-agency team comprised of staff from the Utah System of Higher Education, Utah State Board of Education, and the Utah Governor’s Office, who are working cooperatively to create shared goals and a definition of educational pathways within Utah. For Phase 2 of the proposed pathways initiative, the team will:

- Partner with the US Department of Education to gain a deeper understanding of pathways work being completed across the country.
- Participate in working groups with the US Department of Education and various private organizations to help guide the direction of the pathway’s movement for the future.
- Reach out to institutions and practitioners to understand what elements need to be included in developing a data collection and reporting framework that will assess the quality of educational pathways within Utah.
- Review current Federal and State practices related to the development and implementation of career pathways.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://cte.ed.gov/unlocking-career-success/about.html>

<sup>2</sup> Utah System of Higher Education calculations of Department of Workforce Services long term occupational projections

- Utilize current resources, such as the Regional Pathway Coordinators and Talent Ready Utah, to build partnerships and gain a deeper understanding of the needs of educational partners and industry partners across the state.

In partnership with the US Department of Education, Utah will review and develop action plans related to college in high school programming, workforce connections, and student-centered advising and navigation. The Office of the Commissioner will continue to provide regular updates to the Utah Board of Higher Education.

### **Commissioner's Recommendation**

This is an informational item only; no action is needed.