



UTAH SYSTEM OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION

# MEMORANDUM

June 6, 2024

## Enrollment Task Force Update

Access to higher education remains a strategic plan priority for the Board, a top concern amongst institutional leadership systemwide, and is incentivized by lawmakers in Utah Code.<sup>1</sup>

For performance metrics and funding, access is defined as the percentage of Utah State Board of Education graduates from the K-12 system who enroll in USHE institutions within three years of graduating high school.<sup>2</sup> To support the objective of expanding access across all institutions, as opposed to incentivizing between-institution competition and possible unintentional crowd-out, the access performance goal targets are evaluated on a systemwide level. In 2023, systemwide access measured 52.54% and did not meet the intended goal of 56.65%.<sup>3</sup>

To address further anticipated attrition related to reaching the access goal, the Utah Board of Higher Education recently established a task force to provide recommendations on access to the System and Board. Members of the task force include Vice Chair Steve Neeleman, Board members Javier Chavez Jr. and Rachel Prickett Passey, Commissioner Geoff Landward, President Astrid S. Tuminez, President Jordan Rushton, President Randall Taylor, Chief Economist Carrie Mayne, and Associate Commissioner Taylor Adams.

In their first meeting, the task force determined they would focus specifically on individuals within three years of high school graduation, as defined in performance metrics and funding. The first agreed-upon task force effort will be to conduct a market segmentation study. Once the market segmentation study is complete, the task force will discuss current access-related initiatives, recommend discontinuing efforts that do not support access, and propose new ideas to foster access growth within the System.

### Commissioner's Recommendation

This is an information item only; no action is required.

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<sup>1</sup> [Utah Code 53B-7-7](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Performance Funding](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Attainment Dashboard](#)