



UTAH SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

April 13, 2023

Utah State Board of Education: Utah’s School Counseling Program and Planning for College and Career Readiness

School counselors play a critical role in the post-secondary success of Utah K-12 students. The Utah State Board of Education (USBE), with its Utah College and Career Readiness School Counseling Program Model, strives for excellence in the college and career readiness of its K-12 students. According to [USBE](#), “The Utah Model provides a framework for (1) systemic school counseling practices that advocate for equitable educational access, (2) rigorous academic preparation, and (3) the achievement and attainment necessary for college and career readiness for all students.” The [3rd Edition/2020](#) model is currently under revision; however, it is [grounded](#) on a decades-long history of student-centered systemic vision with goals and standards that are regularly updated.

Planning for College and Career Readiness (PCCR) Meetings

Within the umbrella of planning for college and career readiness activities, school counselors host individual and group meetings with students and their parent(s) or guardian(s). Students receive at least one group and one individual meeting in 7th and 8th grade, 9th and 10th grade, and 11th and 12th grade. USBE PCCR professionals have a long history of collaboration with the Access department of the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE), particularly around resources to support access to USHE institutions for K-12 students during PCCR meetings. Moreover, OCHE has identified PCCR meetings as a vital activity to increase Utah college-going rates.

Career Literacy and Career and Technical Education (CTE) Connections

School counselors support students by guiding them through [CTE](#) options. [USBE explains](#) that this practice “...involves a holistic approach that helps students to understand a range of career fields, multiple entry and exit points for various occupations, and strategies for career development and advancement.”

Commissioner’s Recommendation

This is a discussion item only; no action is required.