



COALITION UTAH is an ad hoc alliance of Constitutionally-minded grassroots Utahns from conservative associations statewide. We unite over various cultural, political & educational issues with the ultimate hope of protecting our God-given freedoms. The following are questions drafted for candidates for the Utah State Board of Education.

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- 1 How will you honor parents' natural and Constitutionally-protected right to direct the education of their own children when this right appears to come into conflict with local or state education policies?

Can you provide an example of when you have done this in either a professional or individual capacity?

- 2 As a Board member, you are entrusted by the state Constitution with “general control and supervision” over the public education system.

What actions will you take if a local district’s policy or practice is out compliance with the plain language of state code 53G-10-205, which affirms students’ and parents’ Constitutionally-protected rights of conscience and religious belief?

- 3 The Board’s Portrait of a Graduate (PoG) framework promotes Social and Emotional Learning competencies (attitudes, values, beliefs) for all students as defined by the state.

Is it appropriate for the Board to advance PoG or similar frameworks in schools statewide?
If appropriate, what actions will you take to support PoG? If not appropriate, what actions will you take to oppose PoG at the state and local levels?

- 4 The Board’s Personalized Competency Based Learning (PCBL) framework prioritizes teaching and assessing students’ subjective Social and Emotional Learning competencies (attitudes, values, beliefs) over their acquisition of objective, traditional academic knowledge and skills. These subjective competencies are quantified & measured primarily via tech-based platforms.

Is it appropriate for schools to inform and evaluate students’ non-academic competencies? Why or why not?
What action will you commit to as a Board member consistent with your given answer?

- 5 Can you provide some specific examples of harmful DEI practices, programs, policies, or pedagogies currently present in schools?

What actions will you take as a Board member to protect students from political, racial, sexual, environmental, or social activism, including DEI, in their school environments?

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- 6 Schools are increasingly providing School-Based Health Centers and Teen Centers and hiring more medical and mental health support personnel.

Do you believe it is the schools' responsibility to provide mental health and medical services for all students? If yes, how will you support this specifically? If no, how will you oppose this specifically? Please cite any relevant policies, programs, or practices.

- 7 Parents continue to voice concerns about sexually explicit content in schools, despite recent laws on sensitive materials addressing this issue.

Do you believe that students still have access to sexually explicit materials through the schools?

If yes, which provisions of current state law do you believe facilitate this access?

- 8 **Do you support government-funded, government-regulated school choice? Why or why not?**
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- 9 **Do you support reducing dependency on Federal funding for public education? Why or why not?**

Will you commit to votes & policy positions that are consistent with your answer?

- 10 **What is your opinion on teachers' and students' use of AI tools becoming the "new norm" in education?**

If you are generally supportive of AI in schools, why? If not, why not?

Will you commit to votes & policy positions that are consistent with your answer?

- 11 Utah's schools universally offer students 1-to-1 devices, and the bulk of instruction and curriculum is being delivered through Chromebooks, increasing students' daily screentime to unprecedented levels.

Do you believe that schools should be required to offer students tech-free options as a learning alternative in courses that are not tech-specific (e.g., computer programming, word processing, etc.)? Why or why not?

Will you commit to votes & policy positions that are consistent with your answer?

- 12 **Do you support public-private partnerships (aka community engagement) in schools? Why or why not?**

Do you support requiring students to perform work-based or service-based learning as a condition of graduating? Why or why not?

- 13 Utah student proficiency scores on language, math, and science consistently fall below 50%, yet graduation rates remain at ~90%, averaged statewide. Graduation rates are considered a key metric of system "success." There is concern that this metric is misleading and that students are graduating "functionally illiterate."

Is this concern valid? Why or why not?

If yes, what likely accounts for the proficiency and graduation disparity and what may be a possible solution?
