



UTAH SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

January 9, 2026

Technical Education Concurrent Enrollment

Integration into Utah's Statewide Concurrent Enrollment Framework

This initiative expands high school students' access to technical college credit for approved technical education coursework completed in high school. By aligning high school and technical college coursework and reducing unnecessary duplication, the initiative accelerates students' progress into technical education programs. This work reduces student costs and time to completion while improving access for students whose participation is limited by transportation, scheduling, or geography.

The work is accomplished by incorporating technical education into Utah's statewide concurrent enrollment framework. This establishes a consistent, transparent method for awarding technical college credit for qualifying high school coursework.

The Utah Board of Higher Education directed this work to improve credit recognition across the secondary and postsecondary systems while preserving existing access to on-campus technical college programs.

This item is presented for information and discussion to establish a shared understanding of the work's purpose, value, and current status. [Board Policy R165, Concurrent Enrollment](#), which incorporates technical education and other updates, is on the consent agenda.

Background

Utah's technical colleges currently serve a significant number of high school students, almost exclusively through instruction delivered on technical college campuses. While this model provides high-quality training, misalignment between high school bell schedules, transportation limitations, and geographic distance can restrict access for some students.

At the same time, Utah has strong but historically separate systems for concurrent enrollment and technical education. Operating in parallel, these systems have led to inconsistent credit recognition and, in some cases, to students repeating substantially similar technical coursework when transitioning from high school to postsecondary programs.

Purpose and Approach

This initiative addresses these challenges by integrating technical education into the statewide concurrent enrollment framework.

Specifically, the technical education concurrent enrollment initiative:

- Extends concurrent enrollment eligibility to technical colleges within the existing statutory and policy framework.
- Awards transcribed technical college credit for qualifying high school career and technical education coursework.
- Preserves student access to on-campus technical college programs while expanding access to approved technical education offerings delivered at the high school.
- Reduces duplication between high school and technical college curricula that can lead to credit loss.
- Supports more efficient entry into adult technical programs.

This initiative builds on, rather than replaces, existing enrollment of high school students in technical education programs by extending delivery beyond the technical college to the high school where appropriate.

Progress to Date

Since August 2025, the Commissioner's office has led coordinated, cross-sector work to design and prepare for concurrent enrollment in technical education. The work has progressed from initial planning into active policy, operational, and System readiness.

Key progress includes:

- Establishment of a statewide steering committee and four standing subcommittees focused on policy, curriculum, student services, and data.
- Development and legal review of proposed updates to Board Policy R165 to formally incorporate technical education.
- Broad stakeholder review of draft policy with institutional general counsels, presidents, and concurrent enrollment leaders.
- Alignment planning to incorporate technical college coursework into the Concurrent Enrollment Master List.
- Review and adaptation of student participation, advising, communication, and registration processes to include technical colleges.
- Mapping of concurrent enrollment data flows to support transcribed credit, reporting, and funding.
- Ongoing engagement with LEAs, technical colleges, and degree-granting institutions to support readiness and surface implementation considerations.

This work positions the System for policy adoption, legislative alignment, and operational readiness.

Policy Alignment and Implementation

Board Policy R165, *Concurrent Enrollment*, has been updated to incorporate technical education into the statewide concurrent enrollment model. Amendments include inclusion of career and technical education

courses, updated definitions, alignment with Board Policy R404, clarification of right of first refusal provisions, and updates to instructor qualification timelines and appeals processes.

Implementation will proceed through a phased approach that includes policy and statutory alignment, operational planning, curriculum and data alignment, and statewide training. The statewide launch for technical education concurrent enrollment is planned for fall 2026.

Commissioner’s Recommendation

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

Approval of the updated Board Policy R165 is requested on the consent agenda. The Commissioner’s office will continue to lead implementation and return to the Board with updates as the work progresses.