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To better support Utah high school students on their path to college, and to change the outcome for a generation of Utahns, the Utah Board of Regents is introducing a statewide program that will put a permanent, full-time college access advisor in every high school in Utah.

**A Statewide College Access Advising Program**

Without a doubt, our college access advisor is an integral piece of the process of getting our seniors accepted into college with financial aid and scholarships. He works tirelessly to provide access and means to all students—specifically those with limited resources and experience—and does so in a way that facilitates trust, respect, and establishes him as a mentor and friend to our students.

Amanda Colton
Counselor, Cottonwood High School

We have loved having a college access advisor at Cyprus High School! They are great at connecting with our students and giving them the most current information. In times past, our college access advisor has been Spanish speaking, which has really helped our students feel connected, have a role model and also keep their parents in the loop! Please keep sending them to us!

Michele Callahan
Assistant Principal, Cyprus High School

I was lucky to have access to a college access advisor during my senior year at Hillcrest High School. My mother did not know anything about the U.S. education system as she is an immigrant from China. As I had no other adult caretaker in my life, college was a distant goal with no accessible route. During my senior year, our teachers introduced us to the college access advisor as an expert in college resources. I had no plans for financing college access, for applying, or for making the transition between high school and college. I met with Savannah, our college access advisor, who took time out of her day to listen to my situation, assess, and introduce me to different college resources. Most importantly, she matched several scholarships that fit my situation.

Franco Jin
Student, Hillcrest High School
By the 2020-2021 school year college access advisors will be available in 50% of Utah high schools.

By the 2021-2022 school year college access advisors will be permanently available in 100% of Utah high schools.

College Access Advisors will help high school students:

Register for and complete college entrance exams
Submit college applications
Apply for scholarships, grants and financial aid
Connect to first-year experience programs for a seamless transition into higher education

College access advisors will be available to every high school student, but will have an intentional focus on supporting low-income and first-generation students.

College access advisors are recent college graduates. This “near-peer” model allows the advisors to speak from experience about navigating college systems, sharing college experiences, and supporting students who are experiencing similar barriers to entry.

This statewide program is an expansion of the Utah College Advising Corps, a University of Utah program that, for over 10 years, has successfully helped students navigate the process of getting into college. This program has been in 12 Utah high schools since 2007, and has demonstrated effectiveness in improving college enrollment and college graduation rates.

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Long-term benefits
Utah needs more high school graduates to earn a college credential to ensure the state has the educated workforce necessary to continue to strengthen Utah’s economic growth, meet workforce needs, and provide an opportunity for every Utahn to better their circumstance.

As the Board of Regents enters into its 50th year, it is making a permanent mark on Utah’s future landscape with the statewide college access advising program. By making this landmark investment in getting more students to attend—and graduate from—college, especially those who likely would not have otherwise attended, this first-in-the-nation, statewide college access advisor program will:

• Increase college enrollment
• Increase college graduation
• Change the course of intergenerational poverty

College Enrollment
Meeting with a college access advisor increases likelihood of enrollment:

One advisor meeting 13% \text{ INCREASE}
Three to five advisor meetings 42% \text{ INCREASE}
Six advisor meetings 145% \text{ INCREASE}

College Graduation
For every meeting with a college access advisor, the likelihood of college graduation increases:

All students 5% \text{ INCREASE}
First-generation students 8% \text{ INCREASE}

Investment
The program is estimated to cost $7 million.

The projected state investment for the program is $5,995,000 with the remainder of the funding coming from existing resources.

Anticipated total number of advisors and programmatic staff employed: 150+
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