

November 13, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Regents  
FROM: David L. Buhler  
SUBJECT: Update on Statewide College Access Advising Initiative

The Board of Regents adopted the statewide college access advising initiative as its keystone initiative in support of its strategic priorities at its September 2018 meeting. This program will establish a full-time, near-peer college access advisor for every high school in Utah by Fall 2021.

The Board also adopted the Commissioner's recommendation for regular updates on the adoption and scaling of the statewide college access advising program, including metrics on cost and student outcomes.

For the 2019-20 academic year, new college access advisors will be added to a select number of Utah high schools using internal budget reallocations from the Commissioner's Office. In addition, there will be new embedded, dedicated regional coordinators overseeing regional clusters of the new college access advisors. Program staff is working with USHE institutional admissions, enrollment, and outreach directors at those institutions to facilitate the integration of the regional coordinator positions.

As the new regional coordinators and college access advisors begin on-boarding in July 2019, baselines and goals will be established for individual high schools on applications and admissions of cohort students.

**Outreach and Advocacy**

The Commissioner, program staff, and Regents have met with the editorial board of KSL Media/Deseret News and the Salt Lake Tribune. Presentations about the initiative to the Governor's Cabinet, the TalentReady Utah Board, the Governor's Education Excellence Commission, the Utah State Superintendents Association, and the Utah Technology Council have been extremely positive. Future opportunities with stakeholder groups including state superintendents, secondary counselors, state PTA, and regional chambers of commerce are being scheduled over the next several months; dates will be shared with the Board by the Commissioner. Any participation by members of the Board of Regents is greatly appreciated.

Commissioner's Recommendation

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

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David L. Buhler  
Commissioner of Higher Education

DLB/MH/SJ