



MEMORANDUM

TAB B

September 18, 2020

Utah College Access Advisors

The former USHE Board of Regents first identified the College Access Advisors initiative as a top priority in September 2018. Until the 2019-20 academic year, the program operated in 12 high schools for almost a decade as the Utah College Advising Corps at the University of Utah, initially established under a joint grant from the USHE Board of Regents and the University of Utah from the Jack Kent Cook Foundation, with the original intent to take this program statewide. Under the current program, 12 high schools in Utah have a full-time college access advisor (11 along the Wasatch Front and one in St. George, as a partnership between the University of Utah and Dixie State University). Using one-time funds, the program expanded during the 2019-20 school year into 34 high schools.

September 2018:	Former USHE Board of Regents adopted the Utah College Access Advisors as its “keystone initiative in support of the Board’s strategic priorities.”
January 2019:	The Commissioner’s office funded expansion of Utah College Access Advisors using one-time internal reallocations.
September 2019:	Utah College Access Advisors expanded to 34 high schools in 11 school districts for 2019-20 academic year.
January 2020:	The former USHE Board of Regents requested \$3 million to expand the Utah College Access Advisors to approximately 50% of Utah high schools.
March 2020:	Utah Legislature appropriated \$1 million ongoing to Utah College Access Advisors to continue program at current scale.
June 2020:	All new appropriations were cut as a result of fiscal impacts due to COVID-19.
September 2020:	Utah College Advising Corp (U of U) continues in the original 12 high schools for intervenient 2020-21 academic year.

Commissioner’s Recommendations:

The Commissioner recommends the Student Affairs Committee:

- Adopt the Utah College Advising Corp Program as a top strategic, budget, and legislative priority of the Utah Board of Higher Education.
- Direct Commissioner’s staff to include a request of \$1 million in ongoing funds in the Board’s draft of budget priorities for consideration at the October 2020 Board meeting.

Attachments:

UTAH'S COLLEGE ACCESS ADVISING PROGRAM

Too many Utah high school students are not going on to college, whether that be a technical college, community college, or university. Many students don't know what options are available to them, or simply don't know where to start. In fact, one out of three high school students does not enroll in postsecondary education within five years of graduating high school.

To better support Utah high school students on their path to college, to fix Utah's leaky talent pipeline, and to change the outcome for a generation of Utahns, it is proposed that the Utah College Advising Corps expand statewide to provide a college access advisor for every high school in Utah by 2021.

Program Objectives

The program places a recent college graduate full-time in the high school to help connect students to the right postsecondary educational opportunity. This includes providing support as students:

1. Register for and complete college entrance exams
2. Submit college applications
3. Apply for financial aid and scholarships
4. Connect with their receiving institution to ensure a smooth transition

Data Driven Approach to Advising

The program collects several key data points from students. This allows the adviser to make data driven decisions about how to best serve the students in their respective high school.

The college adviser was the spark of hope I found while trying to apply to universities. They helped me submit my scholarship applications, also helped me find my way through colleges.

- Senior, Class of 2020

After exploring Dixie Tech's website, the student replied:

"I didn't know this existed. You're telling me I don't need to go to a university to be successful?"

- College access advisor
Class of 2020

"The Utah College Access program is one of the most beneficial programs for our students at this time. I don't know what we would do if we did not have an adviser at our school."

- Head Counselor
Pine View High School

Data collected includes:

College Access Data	
Gender*	College Applications Accepted**
Ethnicity*	FAFSA Completed***
First Generation Status*	FAFSA Assisted
Post-Secondary Plan*	SAT/ACT Scores
Student Interactions	Scholarships Applied*
Parent Engagement	Scholarships Awarded*
College Applications Submitted**	

**In most cases, this data is self-reported by the student*

***Data provided by most USHE institutions*

****Real time data provided by UHEAA*

Statewide Expansion Timeline:

The total cost for a statewide college access advising program is \$7 million. The program will be implemented in three phases:

Phase I:	34 high schools (pilot)	\$1m
Phase II:	70 high schools (75% of students)	\$3m
Phase III:	All Utah high schools	\$4m