



June 18, 2021

Exploring a Statewide Admissions Platform

The concept of a statewide admissions form or application has floated among Utah's higher education leadership and administrators ever since a study [was initiated in September 2014](#) by the then Board of Regents. According to [May 2015 Board meeting materials](#), there was never a recommendation by Commissioner's staff or consultants to establish a statewide application. Rather, there were five recommendations to establish common practices, and even some statewide processes or services:

1. **Electronic Transcript Upload:** Develop a state-level service for applicants to upload high school transcripts that easily link them to their application at time of submission. Additionally, work with K-12 leaders on making sure transcript data is coded properly and is true and accurate.
2. **Common Residency Determination:** Standardize residency procedures and requirements. Establish whether more centralized coordination is necessary to reduce barrier so applicants only need to submit documentation once.
3. **Concurrent Enrollment:** Standardize the Concurrent Enrollment application process and change of status process (to degree-seeking) for applicants across USHE institutions.
4. **Social Security Number:** Allow applicants to move through and submit an application without the SSN. In some cases, SSN is optional, but not required.
5. **Application Fee Waiver:** Develop a standardized process and provide fee waivers for applicants with demonstrated need.

Assessing the postsecondary application and admissions experience requires the involvement of several stakeholders including students, technology leaders, admissions experts, and others to ensure processes are equitable and accessible for all students. For this discussion, a panel of institution admissions leaders will discuss the considerations in ensuring an accessible onboarding for new students.

Commissioner's Recommendation

This is a discussion item only; no action required