Strategic Plan Update: Access

July 18, 2025

UTAH
SYSTEM OF
HIGHER
EDUCATION

Strategic Plan Priorities

ACCESS

Today's deep dive will highlight:

- Partnerships with Community-Based Organizations

- First Credential

- Admit Utah

Community Based Organizations

Utah Education Initiative (UEI)

OCHE Support

BYU Pathway Worldwide UEI Leadership Council

Stake Education Specialists

670+
volunteers

Education Mentors

1700+
volunteers

Leadership and consultation guidance
- Member of UEI Leadership Council

Training for mentors and specialists
- Preparing for college
- FAFSA basics & paying for college
- Technical College overview
- Adult learner barriers & motivators

Resource development
- Devotional talking points
- Utah College Guide
- Facts-at-a-glance

Facilitating relationships with USHE institutions
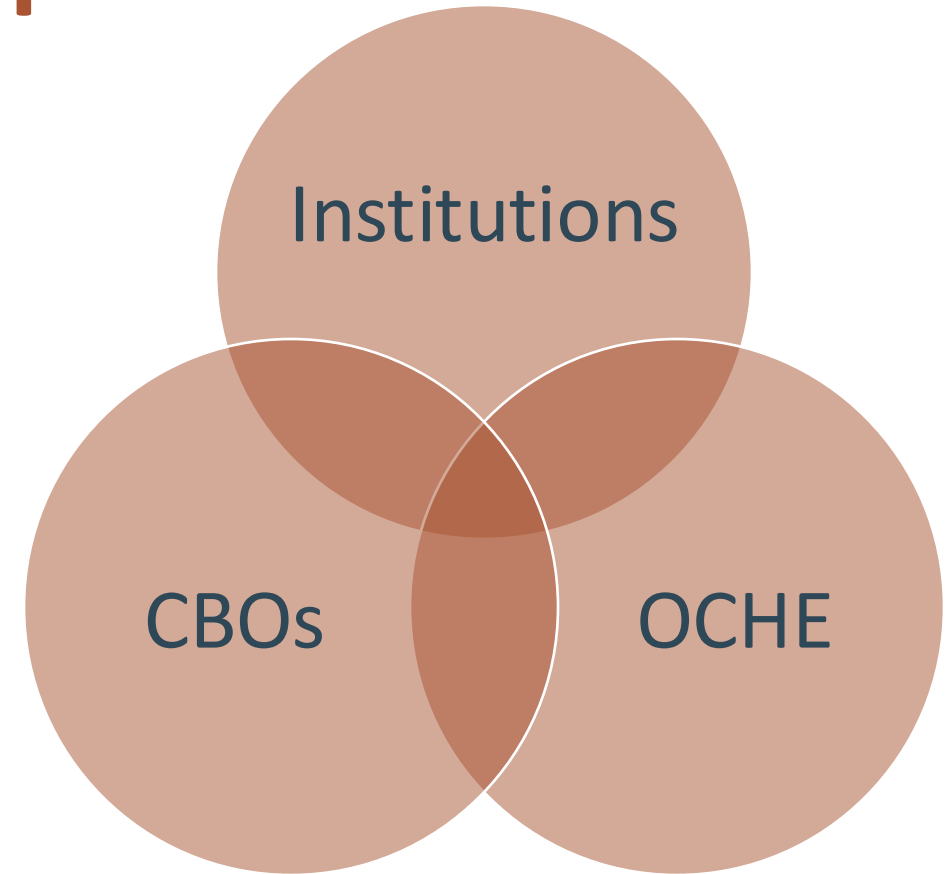
Expanding CBO Partnerships

2025-2026 Outcomes

- Deploy pilot programs at SLCC and Snow College

- Create access coaching positions to support students through referrals from CBOs

- Develop, standardize, and publish trainings and resources for community partners

- Strengthen partnerships with CBOs toward college access

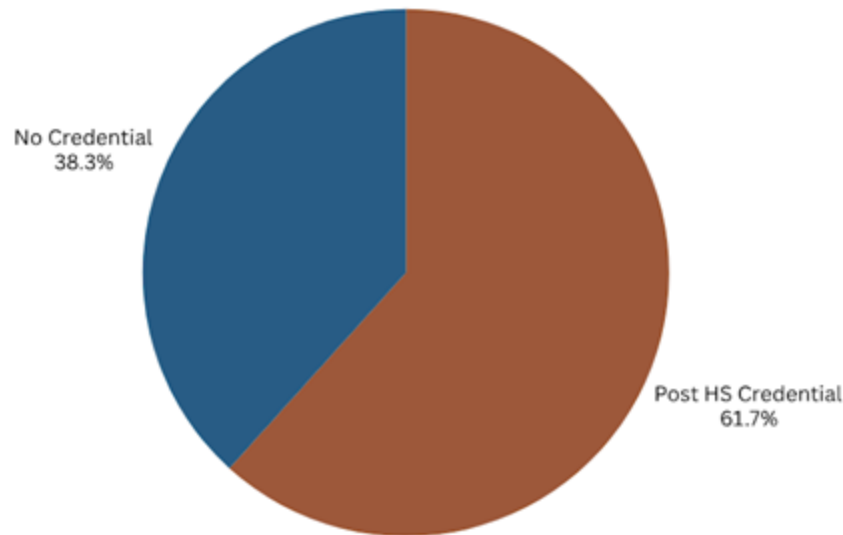- Propose a scalable, statewide framework

Discussion

First Credential

A Shared Goal

To ensure every Utah high school student graduates with a credential that prepares them for college and the workforce by uniting state K-12 and higher education agencies in a comprehensive, collaborative effort.

Utah's Educational Attainment: 2023

No Credential
38.3%

Post HS Credential
61.7%

61.7% of adults in Utah have a post-high school degree, certificate, or certification

Only **1 out of 29 counties** in Utah reached 60% attainment

37.3 percentage point gap between Utah counties with the highest and lowest attainment rates (Summit: 63.4%; Uintah: 26.1%)

What is a First Credential?

HB 260, lines 199-211

- Concurrent Enrollment (12-18 credits or prescribed coursework)

- Industry Recognized Credential

- Youth Apprenticeship Program (300 hours completion)

- Technical College certificate completion

- Career & Technical Education pathway completion

H.B. 260 Bill Provisions

Creates Oversight Committee

Requires Master Plan to scale statewide

Calls for master credential process & committee

Provides methods for ensuring industry alignment

Stipulates collaboration

Provides grants, incentives & scholarships

Ensures transferability & credential stackability

Commands LEA needs & readiness assessment

Mandates evaluation & review process

Timeline

June-July
NCEE
Research & Analysis

September 26
First Draft of
Master Plan
Completed

October 24
Final Draft
Master Plan
Completed

November 19
Final Master
Plan @
Education
Interim

June 4
Oversight
Committee
First Mtg

July 29
Oversight
Committee
Meets

August 14
Oversight
Committee
Meets

September 10
Oversight
Committee
Meets

October 15
Oversight
Committee
Meets

October 31
Oversight
Committee
Meets

November 10
Oversight
Committee
Meets

Discussion

Utah System of Higher Education

Admit Utah

Where we've been: Admit Utah 1.0

- Oct 17, 2024 – July 8, 2025

- Total users: 234,083

- Sessions: 46,934

- Avg time on site: 1min. 31sec.

- See where you can go: 11,375

- Find your fit: 4,050

- Total outbound click: 19,821

- 2024 Utah College Application Week Outcomes

- Participating high schools: 148 (8%⬆)

- Total apps submitted: 50,016 (7.5%⬆)
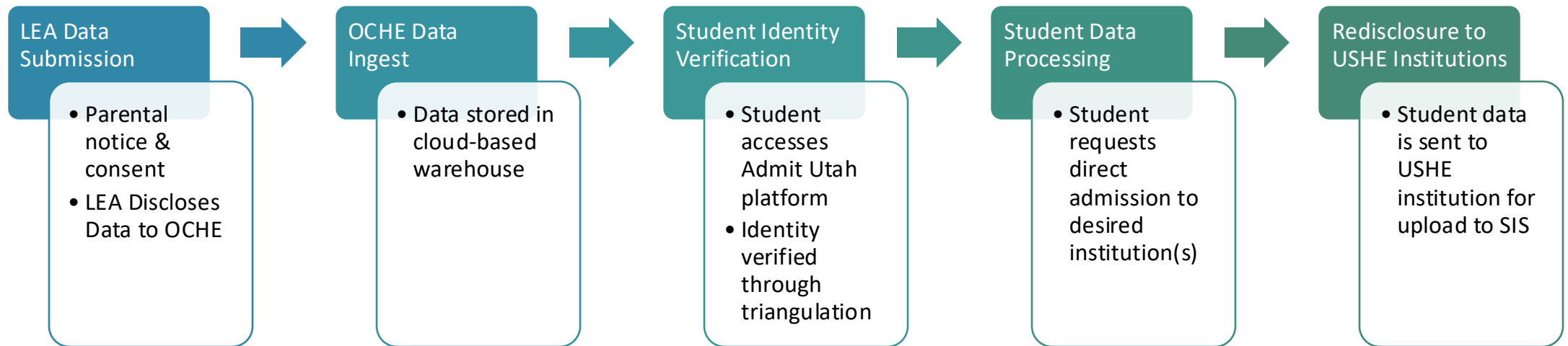
Where we are going: Admit Utah 2.0

Objectives

- Move beyond guaranteed admissions and provide students direct access to colleges and universities

- Enhance Admit Utah to be a more comprehensive experience

- Integrate college-going practices into K-12 education

Outcomes

- Accomplishes statutory obligation (Utah Code § 53B-1-402(2)(r)) for single application and direct admissions

- Reimagined Admit Utah user experience including real-time identity validation

- Establishes data sharing agreements between USBE & USHE

Data & Admit Utah Workflow

LEA Data Submission
- Parental notice & consent
- LEA Discloses Data to OCHE

OCHE Data Ingest
- Data stored in cloud-based warehouse

Student Identity Verification
- Student accesses Admit Utah platform
- Identity verified through triangulation

Student Data Processing
- Student requests direct admission to desired institution(s)

Redisclosure to USHE Institutions
- Student data is sent to USHE institution for upload to SIS

Discussion

Utah System of Higher Education