

Welcome

Welcome to the world of public education in Utah! This is an exciting time of positive educational change in Utah and you are part of these changes by making a difference in the lives of students of all ages and abilities.

The Utah State Board of Education has made “Promises to Keep” for Utah’s public education system. These promises to Utah’s parents, students, and citizens include:

- ***Ensuring literacy and numeracy for all Utah children.***
- ***Providing high quality instruction for all Utah children.***
- ***Establishing curriculum with high standards and relevance for all Utah children.***
- ***Requiring effective assessment to inform high quality instruction and accountability.***

These four promises assist Utah educators in prioritizing and focusing our work with students, as we continue to use current research to improve our instructional practices (such as tiered instruction in support of the common core), maintain an expectation for high quality instruction for all students, begin implementation of the new Common Core State Standards (and ensure that students with disabilities access that Common Core), and use frequent and ongoing progress monitoring assessments to collect student data to efficiently adjust instruction, as needed. You, as one member of the instructional team, will be involved in these processes daily, ensuring that students with disabilities receive high quality specialized instruction to meet their needs.

I have worked with many paraprofessionals and I recognize and value the impact that your instructional services have on the outcomes of students with disabilities. These services are an integral part of the education system; without your assistance, expertise, and enthusiasm, we would not be able to achieve what matters most: **student learning**.

I encourage you to engage in ongoing learning experiences, such as this handbook, which provide additional opportunities to refine your skills. As we continue to collaborate and work together, we will be able to accomplish our goal of improving educational outcomes for all students. Thank you for your efforts on behalf of Utah’s students.

Sincerely,



Glenna Gallo
State Director of Special Education
Utah State Office of Education