



Vote YES on SB55

SB 55 – Authorization of Charter Schools By Higher Education Institutions Sponsor: Stuart Adams

- **Strengthens the bridge between high school and higher learning.** Institutions of higher learning will be more engaged with charter high school students. This engagement benefits all students, but especially:
 - **STEM students:** Institutions of higher learning can focus on missions specific to their institution, encouraging math and science disciplines from an earlier age.
 - **At Risk students:** Engagement with institutions of higher learning creates greater motivation to pursue further education.

- **Increased options for Utah parents and students.** Parents will have more choices when determining the best learning environment for their children.

- **Institutions of higher learning have considerable knowledge and resources.** University resources can be shared with charter schools, including research capacity, faculty expertise and materials. This cooperation increases the opportunity for innovation and enhanced learning experiences.

- **Institutions of Higher Learning will be required to meet the same standards of other charter school authorizers.** Currently, local school districts and the Charter School Board can authorize charter schools with approval from the State Board of Education. Institutions of higher learning would meet those same standards and receive approval from the State Board of Education.

- **Opponents say “Institutions of higher learning are not qualified to authorize charter schools.”** However, institutions of higher learning are incredibly qualified. Their access to resources and education experience make them excellent authorizers. In fact, the success of the higher institution charter school authorization model has been proven in Michigan, Minnesota, Massachusetts, Texas and many other states.