



## UTAH STATE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD

250 East 500 South P.O. Box 144200 Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4200 Phone:  
801.538.7720 <http://www.utahscsb.org>

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Date: February 26, 2020  
To: David Hunter, Board Chair  
From: Kristin Elinkowski, Chair, Utah State Charter School Board  
Subject: Letter of Certification for Vista School

### Certifications:

The Utah State Charter School Board (SCSB) certifies or provides the following information for Vista School (Vista):

1. The charter is in place and to the knowledge of the SCSB, Vista is in compliance with all chartering requirements under the Utah Code. Vista is also in compliance with its charter agreement, except for enrolling more than 3% over its maximum enrollment (enrolled 3.9% over max) and failing to meet one of its three charter goals.
  - a. No outstanding or unresolved concerns exist.
  - b. Vista has no deficiencies; in other words, Vista is not on Warning or Probation status.

\*See Exhibit A for details on how Vista is meeting its charter agreement.

### 2. Enrollment history by school and grade

Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total	Max
2015	71	86	93	105	100	108	111	91	83	848	875
2016	92	89	97	104	100	109	102	112	86	891	875
2017	90	91	87	95	101	109	106	107	91	877	875
2018	91	97	101	103	104	105	103	106	98	908	900
2019	74	98	97	98	100	111	114	108	103	903	900
2020	77	93	96	100	108	111	124	119	107	935	900

3. Vista's most recent re-enrollment (retention) rate is above 80% (was 91.1% for SY2019 to SY2020).
4. Vista has maintained a ADM of greater than 90% in the most recent three years.

Year	ADM	% ADM to Oct. 1 Enrollment
2017	873.54	99.6%
2018	894.44	98.5%
2019	895.04	99.1%

5. Vista's academic performance is adequate to maintain enrollment.

a. Academic Performance Standards in Charter Agreement:

Year	Participation in daily Art or Tech Instruction	Tested Areas that Exceed State Average	Students Making Typical or Better Growth in Reading
2017	91.2%	ELA, Science	42%
2018	92.8%	ELA, Science	59%
2019	99.7%	ELA, Science	59%

b. Performance Relative to Competing Schools:

Schools with Similar Grades Located Near Vista	2017	2018	2019	Average
Arrowhead Elementary School	55%	59%	58%	57%
Lava Ridge Intermediate School	60%	57%	55%	57%
Fossil Ridge Intermediate School	59%	58%	51%	56%
Legacy Elementary School	53%	52%	51%	52%
Vista School	50%	53%	48%	50%
Diamond Valley Elementary	56%	42%	51%	50%
Santa Clara School	48%	48%	49%	48%
Red Mountain Elementary School	41%	58%	43%	47%
Coral Cliff Elementary School	47%	43%	51%	47%
Dixie Middle School	42%	43%	48%	44%
Sunset Elementary school	34%	50%	47%	44%
Paradise Canyon Elementary School	28%	26%	32%	29%

c. Analysis: Overall, Vista has average to slightly above average performance compared to surrounding schools. Vista has also maintained this academic performance for the last three years. During that time, Vista had strong enrollment. There is no reason to expect that Vista's academic performance will dramatically change, thereby negatively impacting enrollment. Thus, we determine that unless there is drastic change in Vista's academic program or instruction, Vista's academic performance is adequate to maintain its enrollment plans.

## Exhibit A

### **Mission:**

Vista's mission is to create an academic enterprise that stands unique among all schools. We are dedicated to providing students with an individualized and unparalleled educational experience through involvement with the arts, language development, and the improved use of information and technology tools. By utilizing a highly trained and committed staff to empower each student to succeed, we will offer a comprehensive program in a professional and compassionate manner and establish a model of academic and artistic excellence.

School Response on how is implementing this mission:

The educational model employed by Vista has proven to be incredibly effective. Students who have experienced Vista's arts and technology infused curriculum have achieved excellence in all areas of study. For example, although Vista serves approximately 4% of the student population in Washington county, in the 2019 Sterling Scholar Competition, Vista alumni made up 18% of all finalists in the Southwest region. Vista alumni were regional winners or runners-up in one third of the scholarship categories. Vista alumni truly embody what a charter school education is supposed to provide to Utah students and what the State Charter School Board desires in its authorized schools. Vista has received numerous awards for its outstanding achievement in the arts, technology, and in academics. Most recently, Vista was recognized as the charter school of the year by "Best of Southern Utah".

### **Key Elements:**

- a. According to the Charter Agreement, Vista provides for a high degree of student choice and personal development by ensuring access to unique arts and technology course work and extracurricular activities that provide for a well-rounded education for the whole child. Vista meets this by:
  - i. Students have access to 50 different Art or Technology electives in grades 6 and 8.
  - ii. Students have access to 20 different Art or Technology in grades 4 and 5
- b. According to the Charter Agreement, Vista integrates arts and technology as the focus of the school. Vista meets this by:
  - iii. Vista engages in 3 tiers of curriculum and instruction, where students receive daily instruction in core subjects, arts, and technology. Students in upper grades are provided opportunities to take additional electives in the arts or technology.
- c. According to the Charter Agreement, Vista uses technology as tools to prepare students for an electronic and technical world. Vista meets this by:
  - i. Vista is currently part of the DTL grant process.
  - ii. Vista is a 1 to 1 device school. Students in grades 6 to 9 have take home ability.
  - iii. Vista has over 200 CANVAS courses available to students.
  - iv. Vista utilizes self-adjusting software for instructional purposes in all grades.
- d. According to the Charter Agreement, Vista provides well-equipped Computer Information Technology Classrooms with highly trained teachers. Vista meets this by:
  - i. Vista is a 1 to 1 device school. Students in grades 6 to 9 have take home ability.
  - ii. Vista maintains 4 high end computer labs (MAC Labs) with state of the art production software.
  - iii. All of Vista's Technology teachers are certified in their instructional areas. 3 or the 4 teachers have advanced degrees.
- e. According to the Charter Agreement, Vista uses Mastery-based curriculum which provides clear competency objectives for students and teachers. Vista meets this by:

- i. Vista uses a mastery-based report-card grades K to 3.
  - ii. Vista has adopted GVC's for all grades and courses.
  - iii. Vista GVC's, RISE, ACT, and DIBELS are tracked by each teacher through Mastery Connect.
- f. According to the Charter Agreement, Vista bases Curriculum and instruction on Utah Core Standards. Vista meets this by:
- i. Vista has adopted GVC's for all grades and courses utilizing Utah Core Standards as a framework.
  - ii. Vista courses all have curriculum maps based on Utah Core Standards
  - iii. Vista has adopted CORE Knowledge as a framework for curriculum delivery. CORE knowledge is a research-based curriculum, well-known for its appropriate alignment.
- g. According to the Charter Agreement, teachers provide interdisciplinary, integrated instruction. Vista meets this by:
- i. Vista's traditional academic classes are infused with arts and technology. Many Vista teachers have backgrounds in arts and incorporate them into daily instruction.
  - ii. Co-planning and co-instructional time is provided weekly as part of the master schedule and professional development plan.
  - iii. Students co-produce materials in academic, arts, and technology courses.
- h. According to the Charter Agreement, teachers are provided ongoing professional development regarding instruction and the effective use of technology. Vista meets this by:
- i. Vista's Master Schedule provides for an early release each Friday for collaboration, PLC, and professional development.
  - ii. Vista contracts with regional reading experts, instructional experts and SEDC to provide periodic but consistent professional development.
- i. According to the Charter Agreement, students receive daily instruction in the creative and performing arts taught by qualified instructors and/or visiting professionals. Vista meets this by:
- i. Vista engages in 3 tiers of curriculum and instruction.
    1. Foundational—Grades K to 3. Students receive daily instruction in ELA, Writing, Math, Science, Social Studies, Visual Art, Music, Dance, Theater and Technology
    2. Exploratory—Grades 4/5. Students receive daily instruction in ELA, Writing, Math, Science, Social Studies, Visual Art, Music, Dance, Theater and Technology. In addition, students are given choice of 2 additional electives in the arts or technology.
    3. Extension—Grades 6 to 8. Students receive daily instruction in ELA, Writing, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Technology. In addition, students are given choice of 4 additional electives in the arts or technology.
  - ii. All Vista Arts teachers are appropriately certified through USBE
  - iii. More than 50% of Vista Arts teachers have extensive industry experience or continue to work in the performing arts industry.
- j. According to the Charter Agreement, students are engaged in lessons taught using a mixture of traditional education tools combined with technology. Vista meets this by:
- i. Vista is currently part of the DTL grant process.
  - ii. Vista is a 1 to 1 device school. Students in grades 6 to 9 have take home ability.
  - iii. Vista has over 200 CANVAS courses available to students.
  - iv. Vista utilizes self-adjusting software for instructional purposes in all grades.
  - v. Each Vista classroom is equipped with functioning interactive wipe-boards and smart technology software.

- k. According to the Charter Agreement, the Director conducts regular individualized evaluations to support teaching staffs' understanding of the state standards and objectives. Vista meets this by:
  - i. Each teacher and staff member is evaluated annually as part of a success-based compensation structure.
  - ii. The Director uses the Utah Standards for Teaching and Learning and the affiliated observation tools as the framework for evaluation.
- l. According to the Charter Agreement, after conducting evaluations, the Director develops a Personal Professional Development Plan which is discussed with each teacher in subsequent meetings. Vista meets this by:
  - i. Vista Uses a SMART Goal template with teachers each year.
  - ii. Vista combines SMART Goal practices with the Utah Standards for Teaching and Learning rubric to establish targets for each instructor.
- m. According to the Charter Agreement, Vista maintains a large enough student population to offer all programmatic elements listed in the approved Charter application. Vista meets this by:
  - i. Vista had been at the approved charter cap number for the last 5 years.
  - ii. Vista has maintained a waitlist of over 200 for the past 3 years

**Vista has three goals identified in their charter:**

1. At least 90% of students participate in daily Art or Technology Instruction

Year	Participation Rate	Met?
2017	91.2%	Met
2018	92.8%	Met
2019	99.7%	Met

2. Exceeds state mean on end-of level exam scores in two tested areas

Year	Areas that Exceeded State Mean	Met?
2017	ELA, Science	Met
2018	ELA, Science	Met
2019	ELA, Science	Met

3. At least 65% of students make typical or better growth from BOY to EOY as measured on the State Mandated Benchmark Reading Assessment

Year	% Making Typical or Better Growth	Met?
2017	42%	Not Met
2018	59%	Not Met
2019	59%	Not Met