



# MEMO

**TO:** Superintendent Jeff Stephens  
Weber School District Board Members

**FROM:** Lori Jo Rasmussen

**DATE:** November 10, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Updated LEA Definition for At-Risk for Academic Failure

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## Enhancement for At-Risk Students Governing Board's Approved Definition of At-Risk for Academic Failure

Each year Weber School District receives funding through a block grant called *Enhancement for At-Risk Students*. The purpose of this funding is to support students who struggle to make appropriate academic growth and achievement. Board Rule R277-708, Enhancement for At-Risk Students programs, <http://www.rules.utah.gov/publicat/code/r277/r277-708.htm> establishes criteria and procedures for an LEA's governing board to define "at-risk of academic failure."

Because Weber School District's previous Board-approved definition included "*students' who score below benchmark on any state approved assessment*," we need to update our definition to more accurately identify students at risk for academic failure. This is necessary because there were no end of level state mandated tests given last year

. Weber School District's revised definition would allow funds to be spent on our K-12 students who have failing grades over the last 5 quarters or who do not demonstrate mastery of essential skills, our students exhibiting social or emotional distress, our English Language Learners, and struggling K-3 readers. For your information, you will find Weber School District's previous Board-approved definition of "at-risk for academic failure" and Weber School District's proposed definition of "at-risk for academic failure" for the 2020-2021 school year below:

**Weber School District's previous definition-**

- 1) score below proficient on any state-approved assessment; or,*
- 2) score below proficient on the WIDA ACCESS assessment; or,*
- 3) score below benchmark according to the DIBELS assessment; or*
- 4) MESA students who score below proficient on any state-approved assessment or the WIDA ACCESS.*

**Weber School District's newly proposed** definition of "at-risk-for academic failure" includes K-12 Weber School District students who:

- 1) have a history of failing grades over the last 5 quarters in our secondary schools, or who have failed to demonstrate competency relative to the essential standards in the elementary grade bands as measured by quarterly grades from our SI system and/or Panorama; or,
- 2) who exhibit emotional or social problems that affect school performance as measured by quarterly review of incidents from our SI system and/or Panorama; or,
- 3) score below proficient on the WIDA Access assessment; or,
- 4) score below benchmark according to the Acadience assessment; or,

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. We are asking you to approve Weber School District's updated definition of "at-risk for academic failure."