



**BOX ELDER
SCHOOL DISTRICT**
Learning is Everything

*Steven E. Carlsen,
Superintendent*

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September 10, 2025

Utah State Board of Education
250 E 500 S
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Dear Utah State Board of Education and State Superintendent Molly Hart:

As I am sure you are aware, on Sunday August 17, 2025 Sergeant Lee Sorenson and Officer Eric Estrada were killed in the line of duty. This occurred in the northern Utah town of Tremonton. This tragedy was one of the saddest events that have occurred in our county and our school district in many, many years.

In my twenty-five years as a School Superintendent in the state of Utah, I have not witnessed an event that so incredibly affected the entire community. The outpouring of love and concern for all involved was a testament to the goodness in people and the entire Box Elder County Family.

Because of the enormity of this sad situation the police officers were honored at a viewing at Bear River High School from 3:00-7:00 pm on August 27, 2025. Their funerals were held at the Utah State University Spectrum with Officer Estrada's funeral on August 28 and Sergeant Sorenson's held on August 29. Both funerals were held at 10:00 am.

Taking into account the number of family, friends, patrons, Box Elder School District employees and students who wanted to honor the fallen officers, the Box Elder School Board of Education allowed the Box Elder School District Leadership Team, led by me as the Superintendent, to cancel school the days of August 28 and 29.

Considering the number of employees and students who were planning on attending the services we did not feel like we could have virtual learning based on the ineffectiveness of that learning on those days, but more importantly to fully honor the fallen police officers.

This letter is a request that those two days be exempt from the required 180 days for Box Elder School District for the 2025-2026 school year.

This letter was voted on and approved at the September 10, 2025 Box Elder School District (BESD) Board of Education regularly scheduled Board Meeting.

Sincerely,

Tiffani Summers, BESD Board President

Steve Carlsen, BESD Superintendent

