



Virtual Sterling Scholar pg. 2



URSA Canceled pg. 2

Spring 2020

# SEDC SNAPSHOT

## 2020 CHANGES TO EDUCATOR LICENSING

*The Utah State Board of Education makes significant changes to Educator Licensing*

On July 1, 2020 all current Utah Educator Licenses will convert to an Associate or Professional Educator License. Board Rule R277-301 has been revised over the past year to make significant changes on how educators are licensed in Utah. If you hold a current Alternative Routes to Licensure (ARL) or Academic Pathway to Teaching (APT) license and are hired at a local education agency (LEA) your license will automatically convert to an Associate Educator License on July 1, 2020 and you will continue working on your Professional Growth Plan (PGP) on the converted Associate Educator License. If you hold a current standard Level 1, 2, or 3 Utah Educator License it will convert automatically to a Professional Educator License. Anyone with an Associate Educator License will need to work with a state-approved university or alternate educator preparation program (APPEL) in order to move to a Professional Educator License. The LEA Specific, Associate, and Professional licenses will be the only educator licenses available after July 1, 2020. Licenses such as Letter of Authorization, APT without Current Employment, and Certified Paraprofessional will no longer be available. There will be 14 possible licensing areas of concentration including: Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Secondary Education, and Special Education. Secondary Educator licenses will have endorsements for the areas that a teacher is qualified to teach. **Continued on page 2.**

### Three Levels of Educator Licenses

Professional	Associate	LEA-Specific
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓USBE Cleared Background Check &amp; Ethics Review</li> <li>✓Level 1, 2, or 3 Educator License <i>or</i></li> <li>✓Completed university-based educator preparation program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓USBE Cleared Background Check &amp; Ethics Review</li> <li>✓Bachelors degree: completed or enrolled</li> <li>✓Content Knowledge Proficiency: tests, major, or experience</li> <li>✓Completed USBE Pedagogical Modules Educator Preparation Program (PEP, APPEL, University)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓USBE Cleared Background Check &amp; Ethics Review</li> <li>✓LEA Board must apply on behalf of educator</li> <li>✓LEA must post plan for educator support</li> <li>✓LEA must post percentage of employed educators with LEA-Specific license</li> </ul>

## WHAT'S NEW

### NEARPOD FOR ALL OF UTAH'S SCHOOLS

Nearpod, an instructional platform that merges formative assessment and dynamic media for collaborative learning experiences, announced a state-wide partnership with Utah Education Network (UEN). The partnership ensures that every Utah school district has access to Nearpod, bringing more than 658,000 students in grades K-12 and their teachers access to the company's engaging learning experiences until 2024.



The partnership comes at a time when distance learning is a top priority for school districts across the country, including those in Utah where schools are closed through the end of the school year. The UEN worked with Nearpod to fast-track this launch in order to bring timely resources to educators looking for remote learning solutions. Teachers across all of Utah's 41 school districts and more than 100 charter schools will now have access to Nearpod's interactive learning platform and library of 7,500+ pre-made, standards-aligned lessons. By leveraging Nearpod's lesson content, or uploading their own, educators can deliver media-rich instruction while receiving real-time feedback on student progress, both in and out of the classroom.

In addition to the supplemental curricula available through Utah's Nearpod statewide partnership, Nearpod offers an English Learners solution to develop Tier 2 & Tier 3 vocabulary; Historical Perspectives & Literacy to increase culturally relevant instruction in the social studies classroom; and Learning Labs, an experiential professional learning solution, to increase teacher engagement and effectiveness. Flocabulary, the company's newest additional offering, engages students with academically rigorous K-12 curriculum while promoting literacy through music, videos and creativity tools.

Utah districts and charters can learn more about getting started with Nearpod by visiting [www.uen.org/nearpod](http://www.uen.org/nearpod).

# 2020 STERLING SCHOLAR AWARDS

## A VIRTUAL AND LITERAL SUCCESS

Following the recommendations of Governor Herbert and the Utah Health Department, the Southwest Educational Development Center had to make the difficult decision to make significant changes to the annual Southwest Regional Sterling Scholar competition that had been scheduled to occur at Dixie State University on April 2, 2020.

The typical live and in-person events of the Sterling Scholar competition (such as the bandquet and awards ceremony) did not occur this year. However, because of the great amount of work that had already been done by the Sterling Scholars in each of the high schools, the SEDC team made adjustment to allow for the competition to go on and the scholarships to be awarded.

Students and judges met on April 2 via video conference to eliminate the need for travel and allow for social distancing. Orchestrating over 190 individual online interviews in a single day is not an easy task, but with the help of school coordinators, the students, the judges, and the SEDC staff, they all went very well. Students were able to visit with the judges and display their expertise and knowledge in their chosen categories. In the categories of

Visual Arts, Dance, Music, and Speech & Drama, the 3-minute performances that are typically performed live in front of the audiences were pre-recorded and shared with the judges prior to the interviews.

Those chosen as the Regional Sterling Scholar Winners were: in **English**- Winner Charity Ford and Runners-up Brynlee Cardall and Kasia Watson;

in **Speech & Drama**- Winner AnneMarie Smith and Runners-up Tyra Lee Eyre and Lincoln Paul; in **Computer Technology**- Winner Aubree Miller and Runners-up Kyla Edgar and David J. Cosby; in **Mathematics**- Winner Leo Chris Bloxham and Runners-up Tyler Nance and Jaedan Mandato; in **Social Science**- Winner Dominica Valentina Valdivieso and Runners-up Lexie Dalton and Collins Nelson; in **Agricultural Sciences**- Winner Aliza Woolsey and Runners-up Taleah Heaton and Trev Anderson; in **Business & Marketing**- Winner Puja Patel and Runners-up Caleb Leavitt and Kacie Rae Cox; in **Dance**- Winner Kennedi Jennings and Runners-up Gabrielle Erickson and Ellie

Rachelle Sandstrom; in **Family and Consumer Sciences**- Winner Jacey Larsn and Runners-up Cassidy Chamberlain and Kate Smith; in **Music**- Winner J.T. Twigg and Runners-up Emma Heaton and Cade Szymanski; in **Science**- Winner Alexa Brammer and Runners-up Skylee Peterson and Katelyn Larsen; in **Skilled and Technical Sciences**- Winner Shaylee Evans and

**45 individual judges and 192 individual Sterling Scholars come together in a virtual interviews in a single day**

Runners-up Kyle Heaton and Tyra Taylor; in **Visual Arts**- Winner Asha Cox and Runners-up Zoe Petersen and Abbie Hermansen; in **World Languages**- Winner Justin Fox Barrett and Runners-up Caitlin Berry and Lacey Durrant; and in **General Scholarship**- Winner Porter Dansie and Runners-up Chloe Allen and Cameron Miner.

To announce the winners and to recognize all of the regional Sterling Scholar competitors a video was released and can be found at <https://www.youtube.com> by searching for "2020 Sterling Scholar Awards." Congratulations to all of the Sterling Scholars and best wishes in your future.

## SMARTER TEACHING: Using Zoom



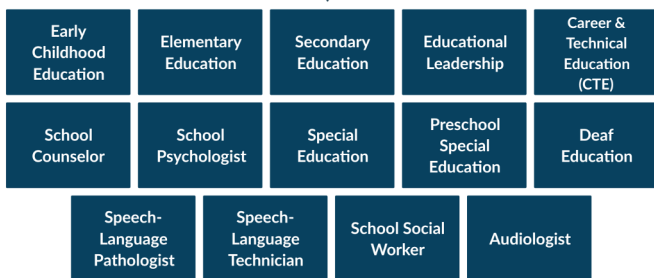
Zoom is a great tool for distance learning or online-based instruction. With Zoom you can meet virtually with your students via a video call.

You can teach lessons, share a read aloud or just check in with them. You can even record your meetings so that students who didn't come can watch it later.

You don't need any fancy tools or a degree in computer science and Zoom is currently free. It usually has limits on the length of the meeting and the number of attendees. But, Zoom is offering a free account for teachers during these times that does not have these limitations. Simply go to <https://zoom.us/docs/ent/school-verification.html> to get started. If you need any help, just contact SEDC and we will be happy to get you started.

## 2020 CHANGES TO EDUCATOR LICENSING CONT.

### 14 License Areas of Concentration



hired at a Utah LEA and work with that LEA to complete all requirements for the Professional Educator License. LEAs in the SEDC Region will be working with SEDC's APPEL program in order for their teachers with Associate Licenses to complete the requirements for a Professional License. The APPEL program will include taking online classes through Southern Utah University, preparing for and passing a Pedagogical Performance Assessment (the PPAT) and participating in the mentoring and coaching processes of the LEA. Teachers with Associate Licenses will be observed and evaluated by their building level administration. It is anticipated that the APPEL program will take 2 to 3 years to complete. For more information about changes to USBE educator licensing, please visit <https://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/licensing>.



Unfortunately, the URSA Board has determined that due to the health concerns associated with COVID-19 the 2020 URSA Summer Conference will be canceled. We know that many professional educators from across the state look forward to this annual professional learning opportunity. We have received confirmation from all of our planned 2020 Keynote Speakers that they will return for next year. Those currently registered for 2020 will receive a refund. **The 2021 URSA Summer Conference will be held in Richfield, Utah, July 7-9, 2021.**