**Summary of Changes: 2017-18 Utah**

**Testing Ethics Policy**

The following is a summary of the changes made by the Utah State Board of Education to the 2017-18 Standard Test Administration and Testing Ethics Policy for Utah Educators, which was ratified on November 2, 2017:

* Before Testing:
  + Provide instruction aligned to Utah Core standards using appropriate, locally adopted curriculum
  + Provide students with a variety of assessment experiences throughout the year
* During Testing:
  + Curriculum and instruction in all course are aligned with Utah Core standards
  + Educators review preparation guidelines and test administration manuals for the assessment
  + All school testing coordinators, administrators, and teachers administering tests are aware of their role in the assessment administration
* Licensed educators shall ensure that:
  + All students who are eligible to test are tested or recorded as to why they didn’t participate
  + Students aren’t penalized who have been opted-out of a state assessment
  + Students aren’t rewarded for participating in or performing well on a state assessment
    - Some examples of inappropriate practices could include, but are not limited to:
      * Excluding from Honors course consideration students who have a SAGE parental exclusion (opt out)
      * Parties, gift cards, prizes, special assemblies for only students who took SAGE and/or only for students who demonstrate improvement on SAGE assessments
      * Giving candy bars to students who received a 3 or 4 on SAGE, while students with parental exclusions or those who scored a 1 or 2 receive nothing
      * Students with parent exclusions watch movies while the other students test
  + Students are provided an educational activity if they are opted-out of a state assessment
    - Some examples are:
      * LEA, school, or teacher created assessment on course standards
      * A short essay (grade appropriate expectations) related to a Utah Core standard which could be student selected or assigned
* After Testing:
  + Results are provided to students and parents within three weeks of the LEA receiving them with information on how to appropriately interpret scores and reports
* Utah LEAs and Licensed Utah Educators may NOT:
  + Use a student’s score on a state required assessment to determine the student’s academic grade, or a portion of the student’s academic grade, for the appropriate course; or whether the student may advance to the next grade level (R277-404-6. School Responsibilities).
  + Prohibit a student from enrolling in an honors, advanced placement, or International Baccalaureate course based on a student’s score on a state required assessment or because the student was exempted from taking the state required assessment (R277-404-6. School Responsibilities).