

Superintendent Search

canyonsdistrict.org • 801-826-5000



Views such as the picturesque Little Cottonwood Canyon delight Canyons School District residents and visitors.

Are you the leader we're looking for? We invite you to become a part of Canyons School District

When the sun rose nearly 11 years ago on a hot August morning, change was in the air. Principals, teachers and staff members were preparing to welcome students for the first time to schools they'd always known — but now it was different. It was the first day of school, Aug. 26, 2009, in the first school district to be created in Utah in 100 years. The momentum of days and weeks leading up to this important day in Canyons District began two years earlier, on Nov. 6, 2007. That's when residents in southeast Salt Lake City voted to create a new school district with a blank slate and a mandate from the people that it be responsive to the community and guided by innovative ideals. From that historic vote and those first days, the Canyons

Board of Education has directed its vision toward one clear goal: To help every student graduate college- and career-ready in a world-class school district built on the tenets of student achievement, community engagement, customer service, innovation and fiscal accountability.

Since its creation, Canyons District has followed a trajectory of innovation and excellence with the quality of student education as its lodestar. While the last 10 years have been remarkable, all eyes are on the future. We invite you to be a part of something great. Come and be a part of the Canyons District family.



See our YouTube channel for more about Canyons District.



BUILDING MOMENTUM: Canyons District is building with purpose. With the 2018 fall opening of the newly renovated Indian Hills Middle, Canyons fulfilled promises made to voters as part of a \$250 million tax-rate-neutral bond approved in 2010. In all, the District completed 13 major school-improvement projects without raising taxes — and while maintaining a AAA bond rating. But the work continues. Construction has started on total rebuilds of two of Canyons’ five high schools, a major renovation of another high school, and a rebuild of the District’s oldest elementary, all funded by a \$283 million bond approved by voters in November 2017. The District plans to break ground in 2021 on rebuilds of two elementary schools and one middle school . With funds from the 2017 bond, daylighting and Front Office renovation improvements also have been made at schools in all corners of the District to bring natural light into the building, improve customer service, and enhance security.



Sandy Elementary



Midvale Elementary



Albion Middle



Corner Canyon High



Butler Middle



Draper Park Middle



BHS Bengal Building



Hillcrest Addition



Mount Jordan Middle



Butler Elementary



Midvale Middle



Alta View Elementary



Indian Hills Middle



Alta High



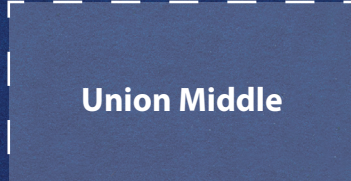
Hillcrest High



Brighton High



Midvalley Elementary



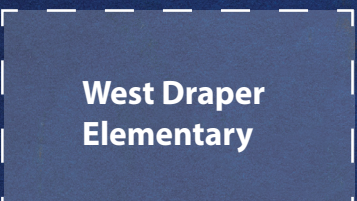
Union Middle



Peruvian Park



Scan me to check out all of our construction and refurbishment plans.



West Draper Elementary



White City Area School



Office and Lighting Upgrades



CANYONS
SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Last year, Canyons District athletic teams claimed multiple state championships, including football, boys swimming, boys and girls soccer, boys track and field, boys cross-country, boys basketball, and dance.



CSD boasts the No. 1- and No. 2-ranked elementary schools in Utah. CSD middle schools also performed admirably on year-end exams, with one in the No. 1 spot and another at No. 6. CSD's five traditional high schools are known throughout Utah for their academic, artistic and athletic programs.



For 11 years, CSD schools have held Kindergarten College-Ready Day events during the first week of school. The activities help children see the importance of working hard every day so they can be prepared for college and careers when they graduate from high school.

WE ARE CANYONS: This is life, elevated. That may be Utah's state slogan, but it is also an apt description of Canyons District, which provides educational services to cities and towns nestled at the base of the majestic Wasatch Mountains. In addition to stellar neighborhood schools, and a strong economy bolstered by a burgeoning high-tech sector, families in Canyons District, located roughly 11 miles south of Salt Lake City, enjoy the amenities at four world-renowned ski and snowboard resorts in the District's boundaries and immediate access to some of the country's most-picturesque hiking and biking trails. Exceptional colleges and universities, including the University of Utah, Brigham Young University, Utah Valley University, Weber State University and Salt Lake Community College, are all located within 45 miles of Canyons District. It takes less than five hours to drive from CSD's Sandy City headquarters to arrive at any of Utah's five National Parks, and Salt Lake International Airport takes travelers to any location in the world. Visitors also remark on the curb appeal of the Canyons' tight-knit and tidy neighborhoods in Cottonwood Heights, Draper, Midvale, Sandy, and the towns of Alta, Brighton and White City. They are full of families of all kinds and sizes who are invested in the education of their children. Without question, with their relatively low crime rates and cost of living, Canyons communities are an ideal place to live, work and play.

Canyons by the Numbers

Median Household
Income

\$71,230

Adults with college degrees

43%

Unemployment Rate

2.4%

Our Students

Enrollment

34K

28 % Economically
Disadvantaged

31 % Ethnic
Minority

10 % English
Language Learners

64 Languages
Spoken

11 % Special
Education

6% Homeless

1 in 5

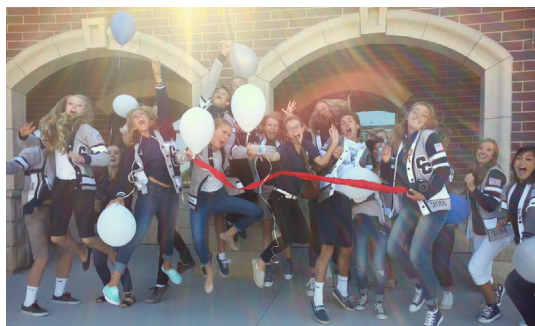
Students enrolled in the
school of their choosing,
or a school other than the
one assigned to them by
geographic boundaries.



Our Achievements & Innovations

While the list of CSD's accomplishments in the past 10 years is far too lengthy to list here, the following are major milestones that have helped make Canyons a world-class district:

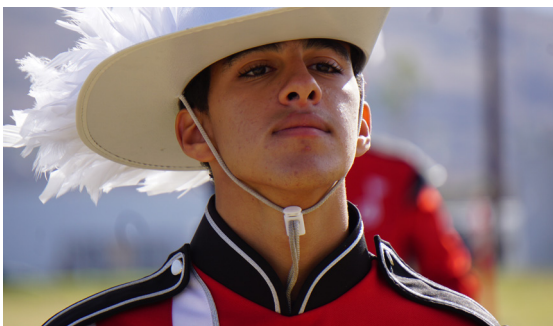
- In a move to strengthen the role of teachers in keeping our students on a trajectory of success, the Canyons Board of Education voted in 2019 to give all CSD teachers a \$7,665 salary increase, putting starting annual teacher pay at \$50,000. Only one other school district in Utah offers a higher introductory salary.
- Canyons' graduation rate in 2019 reached 90 percent, a 1 percentage point





increase over the previous year and 7 percentage point jump in five years. All student groups are graduating in greater numbers, including those who typically face the greatest obstacles to academic success.

- Hillcrest High, one of Canyons District's five traditional high schools, is home to a prestigious and rigorous International Baccalaureate diploma program, one of 10 in Utah. Midvale Middle, which is part of the Hillcrest feeder system, is one of just three schools in the state with an IB Middle Years program.
- Eleven percent of CSD's some 34,000 students participate in French, Mandarin Chinese and Spanish Dual Language Immersion programs at 19 schools throughout the District. In this program, students spend a good portion of their school day speaking their targeted language exclusively. Canyons also has a robust list of Honors Classes and a centralized advanced-learner elementary and middle school program called SALTA, which stands for Supporting Advanced Learners Towards Achievement.



Our Schools

 **29**
Elementary Schools

 **8**
Middle Schools

 **5**
Traditional High Schools

 **8**
Special Programs

Average School Size

High School	2,218
Middle School	1,026
Elementary School	516

Average Class Sizes

Kindergarten	21.9
Elementary	22.9
Middle School	28.9
High School	28.2

Our Employees

Largest employer in southeast part of Salt Lake Valley

5,711
Employees, including part-time staff

96
Principals, Assistant Principals

43
Administrators

2,232
Teachers

Our Teachers

84%

have four or more years of experience
50% have a Master's degree

Our Budget

\$533M

Projected 2019-2020 Expenditures, including bond-funded capital projects

Why Utah?

Nearly 3 million people are at home in Utah, known for its four full seasons, majestic mountains, and the site of the hugely successful 2002 Winter Olympic Games. To longtime Utahns, the question posed across the country really should be, “Why not Utah?” Modern-day Utah is a far cry from its pioneering history. Today, there’s an electric capitol nightlife, vibrant art and culture scenes, and a mix of people who have come from all over the world to enjoy world-class biking, hiking, skiing, snowboarding, boating, and camping. Utah’s jaw-dropping, eye-catching, awe-inspiring wonders range from the red rock of Moab to the snow-capped peaks of the Wasatch Mountains. Want to ski in the morning and play golf in the afternoon? Take in a Broadway-quality matinee of a musical and then cheer for the Utah Jazz at night? Well, then, Utah is the place. However, Utah is more than just a beautiful playground. Voluntarism is a bedrock value. Residents of Utah also take to heart the state’s motto, which is simply the word “Industry,” and have built a reputation as a place where global companies, such as Adobe and Facebook, can attract and maintain a diverse, well-educated and dedicated workforce. Consider coming to Utah. After all, it’s a pretty, great place.



Cost of Living in Utah

Average Apartment Price

\$700-\$1,400 per month

Average Price of a Home in Utah

\$338,000

Average Price of Home in Canyons District

\$421,000

Average Monthly Utility Costs

Garbage and Recycle — \$15

Water — \$65

Electrical — \$90

Gas — \$83

Sewer — \$25

Basic Internet — \$45

The great cities and townships that make up Canyons School District



A Tradition of Excellence in Educational Leadership

Former Superintendents of the Canyons School District

A community that invests in education. Remarkable school facilities in well-maintained neighborhoods. A culture that encourages innovation. These are just a few of the reasons to choose Canyons. Here's a look at the men and women who have helped cultivate Canyons' reputation during their time as the District's chief executive.



Dr. Jim Briscoe

Superintendent — 2014-2020

Dr. Jim Briscoe became the superintendent of Canyons School District on July 1, 2014. Dr. Briscoe has 38 years of experience as an educator. Prior to his appointment to the chief executive post in 34,000-student Canyons District, Dr. Briscoe previously served as superintendent of a 6,200-student public school district in DeKalb, Ill., and an 1,800-student high school district in Oak Lawn, Ill. A former sixth-grade social studies and math teacher, Dr. Briscoe also worked six years as a high school principal in Wisconsin. He served three years as a high school principal in Round Lake, Ill., and worked as an assistant high school principal for five years and junior high dean of students for three years in the community of McHenry, Ill. As Superintendent, Briscoe, who earned an Ed.D. in Education Leadership at Northern Illinois University, remains highly visible and accessible to families, students and staff as he furthers Canyons' initiatives and innovative programs to help students become college- and career-ready. Dr. Briscoe will serve as Superintendent until June 30, 2020 when he will retire.



Dr. Ginger Rhode

Interim Superintendent — 2013-2014

Dr. Ginger Rhode began her year as Interim Superintendent on July 1, 2013. Dr. Rhode served as Canyons' Deputy Superintendent for Student Achievement and Chief Academic Officer from November 2008 until her appointment as the interim superintendent. She has a Ph.D. in Special Education from Utah State University and is a widely published author of numerous books on behavior management, including "The Tough Kid Book," which has received national recognition. A former special education teacher and school principal, Dr. Rhode worked as the Director of Special Education, Director of Federal and State Programs, and Coordinator of English as a Second Language Programs in Utah's Davis School District, and has extensive experience in school reform and improvement efforts. She also served as Special Education Coordinator and State and Federal Compliance Officer for the Utah State Office of Education and as an Adjunct Professor in the University of Utah's Educational Psychology Department.



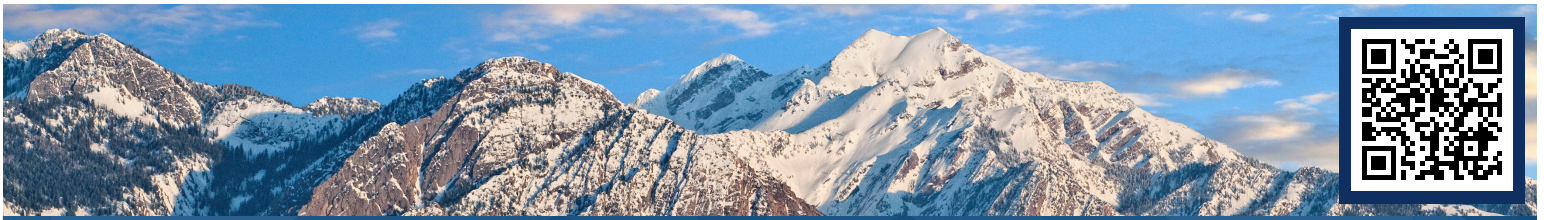
Dr. David Doty

CSD Superintendent — 2008-2013

Dr. David Doty was the inaugural Superintendent of the Canyons School District. Prior to his appointment in 2008, Dr. Doty was Assistant Commissioner and Director of Policy Studies for the Utah System of Higher Education, and the Director of Utah Scholars, a business-education initiative that motivates high school students to complete a rigorous college-prep curriculum. He earned a bachelor's of arts in Spanish from Brigham Young University in 1989, as well as a juris doctorate from BYU's J. Reuben Clark Law School in 1993. In 1990 he earned a master's of arts from the Graduate School of Education at Stanford University. Nine years later, he graduated from BYU's David O. McKay School of Education with a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership. Dr. Doty also worked previously as an attorney in private practice with the Columbia, S.C., law firm of Duff, Turner, White and Boykin, where he provided legal counsel to public school districts and colleges across South Carolina.

“There aren't a lot of school boards in the country who will do mission and vision beliefs and then tie specific indicators to them and apply attainable goals. That's really important. The people who created the District had the perfect opportunity to create the system where they raised the standards, mapped them out and set expectations for what every teacher needed to do. I agree with every initiative they did. It was one of the main reasons I came here. From my personal perspective, I can tell you five years from now, nobody along the Wasatch Front will be able to compare to our facilities, that's a fact. We have our teachers trained, our principals are being trained, they are constantly evaluating student programs to make decisions to improve student curriculum. If we keep doing that we will always be innovative.”

—Dr. Jim Briscoe on his tenure in Canyons School District



THE POSITION

In selecting the new Superintendent, the Canyons Board of Education seeks the following:

Qualifications

- Extensive classroom and administrative experience in public K-12 education
- Ph.D. or Ed.D. or equivalent preferred. Experience considered for equivalency
- High-quality writing and speaking communication skills
- Experience working with diverse populations
- Experience managing a large, complex organization with many stakeholders

Characteristics

- Integrity, honesty
- Visionary, forward-thinking
- Personable, engaging, charismatic, sense of humor, likes kids
- Creative problem solver
- Good organizational skills, strategic thinker and planner



CANYONS
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Leadership Skills

- Excellent communicator, respectful of and listens to input and is persuasive
- Visible and spends time in all corners of the District
- Effective collaborator
- Good delegator and holds others accountable to complete their responsibilities
- Inspires colleagues, students and community partners

APPLICATION PROCESS

The position will close on March 13 at 5 p.m. MDT

It is anticipated the Board of Education will make a selection in May 2020

The following documents must be submitted by the deadline:

Application form found at www.canyonsdistrict.org

- Letter of Interest
- Vitae
- Five (5) professional and current letters of recommendation
- Five (5) professional and current references

Application materials must be submitted electronically to
Richard Stowell, Executive Director, Utah School Boards Association

Contact: 801-566-1207

Send materials to rstowell@usba.cc

Compensation and Terms of Employment

- Competitive compensation and benefit package offered
- Two-year renewable contract as allowed by Utah law

* Mr. Stowell is a third-party facilitator contracted by Canyons District to receive the applications and verify the candidates meet the requirements for consideration.



The Canyons Board of Education

The Superintendent is hired and supervised by the elected Canyons Board of Education, made up of one representative from seven precincts. Members serve staggered four-year terms and elect a president and vice president(s) from within their members every two years.