

## FAQ for Community Members

Send questions to [Expansion@rslacademy.org](mailto:Expansion@rslacademy.org)

- **What exactly is happening?**
  - Athlos Academy of Utah has requested permission to give ownership and operation of AAU to Salt Lake Academy beginning next year.
  - AAU will effectively close its doors and reopen as Salt Lake Academy Griffin Campus.
  - Salt Lake Academy which currently serves grades 9 to 12 on one campus, will now serve grades K to 12, split between two campuses.
- **My student currently attends AAU. Will he or she have to reapply for the lottery?**
  - No. All students that have signed the intent to return will be automatically admitted to Salt Lake Academy for the upcoming year.
  - All students, parents, and teachers will be given a SLA code of conduct that they will be expected to sign and abide by.
  - Individual students with excessive absenteeism and/or excessive behavior challenges may have their invitations to attend revoked.
- **My student is in the current lottery. What will happen with his or her application?**
  - All new students in the AAU lottery will be added to the SLA lottery and go through the selection process.
  - Provided that appropriate paperwork and compliance requirements are met and there are seats available, students currently in the lottery will be admitted.
  - Any student not admitted in the lottery will be placed on the waiting list and will follow waiting list protocols as established by Salt Lake Academy.
- **Which Grades will be served on which campuses?**
  - Kindergarten through 8th grade will be served on the current Athlos campus. (Griffin Campus)
  - Grades 9 through 12 will be served on the current Salt Lake Academy campus. (Zebra Campus)
  - Occasionally high school aged students will be on the Griffin campus for specified learning and athletic activities.
- **Salt Lake Academy and AAU both own buildings and operate separate campuses. What will happen going forward?**
  - Salt Lake Academy intends to operate both campuses in a specific manner that maximizes the utilization of the physical space. It will continue to train soccer players at the Zion's Bank Training Facility (Zebra) as much as possible.

- Salt Lake Academy will offer athletic and academic classes for primary education on AAU campus and junior high students on the AAU campus. High School students will have courses on the current SLA campus.
  - Salt Lake Academy intends to maximize the human resources, teaching expertise and coaching expertise that are available between both campuses and in the community. A full program of study will be available on both the Zion's Bank Training Center campus and the AAU Campus.
  - The Zion's Bank Training Center Campus will be known as Zebra
  - The AAU Campus will be known as Griffin
- **What is the role of SMS-Athlos Home Office going forward?**
    - Salt Lake Academy has a contract with Red Apple for financial services, compliance services, payroll and other related services. Athlos Academy of Utah holds a similar contract with Homecourt.
    - Salt Lake Academy intends to issue an RFP for Financial Services and related services and to select an appropriate contract.
    - Salt Lake Academy employs its own Executive Director and leadership team. It will not be engaging in a leadership or curriculum contract with Home Court.
- **What will happen to the AAU Board of Directors?**
    - The AAU Board of Directors will be dissolved
    - The new SLA charter agreement expands the current board membership from 5 to 7 seats. The 2 new seats on the SLA board are intended for current AAU board members or their designated successors.
- **What is the timeline for this closure and reopening?**
    - The official transfer date is July 1, 2025.
    - A general timeline and schedule for events will be distributed to the SLA and AAU school communities and staff. The timeline is subject to change based on need and progress towards opening.
- **Will Beyond the Bell continue to be offered?**
    - A Before Care and an Aftercare program will be offered in some format. It may change in the structure and organization from the current Beyond the Bell program but it will be continued.
- **Will the community programs that are currently offered continue to be offered?**
    - Salt Lake Academy will continue to house the adult ELL courses as they are right now.
    - Salt Lake Academy will continue to support the community food pantry that operates on AAU Campus.
    - Salt Lake Academy is exploring the expansion of community services in the future.

- **Will Salt Lake Academy offer preschool?**
  - Neither SLA nor AAU are currently authorized by the state of Utah to offer preschool or daycare. Salt Lake Academy is exploring the requirement of offering these programs in the future as well as reviewing potential partnerships with private preschool or child care programs to meet this community need. No determination has been made at this time.
  
- **What will happen with the Federal Lunch Program at Athlos?**
  - All students that currently qualify for free or reduced lunch services will continue to receive them.
  - Salt Lake Academy is exploring how to offer a Federal Lunch Program on the high school campus.
  - The intent is to have high-quality, healthy food available to all students.
  - Costs are anticipated to stay similar at the Elementary and Junior High levels. High school students may change up or down depending on the process of implementation of the school lunch program on the Salt Lake Academy campus.
  
- **What Curriculum will be used?**
  - A Curriculum review is being conducted in each academic area. Effective curriculum materials that are in use will continue to be used
  - Ineffective Curriculum materials will be discontinued and replaced with other, more effective curriculum materials.
  - Athlos Athletic Movement Curriculum will be discontinued and replaced with another course of study.
  - Athlos' 13 Character Traits will be discontinued and replaced with another course of study.
  
- **Will the Athlos Brand continue in the new school organization?**
  - This is considered a school closure and reopening under the Salt Lake Academy Brand. AAU and Athlos logos and materials will be removed from the program of study and be replaced with Salt Lake Academy brand, colors, and materials.
  
- **What will the uniform policy be going forward?**
  - The key concept regarding uniforms is that we desire to help all students learn to dress appropriately for the situations in which they participate. There is a way to dress for athletics, a way to dress for work, a way to dress for special events.
  - The new Salt Lake Academy will ensure that students know how to and are empowered to dress appropriately for their educational circumstances.
  - Currently Salt Lake Academy does not have uniforms.

- The Althos uniform and school colors will be eliminated.
- Elementary Uniform will be replaced with SLA Brand colors and expectations.
- The topic of secondary uniforms or non-uniforms is still under discussion.
  
- **Will Athletic Movement class continue?**
  - Athletic Movement is a key element in the Salt Lake Academy mission and vision. Athletic training will continue as an important element of all student's daily experience.
  - SLA intends to focus on both sport specific training and individual athletic performance training for all students grades K to 12. It may look different than current AAU classes but the emphasis on athletics will continue.
  
- **What other coursework will be offered to students?**
  - Salt Lake Academy offers a full program of study to all students.
  - At the primary level
    - Literacy
    - Numeracy
    - Science
    - Social Studies
    - Athletic training
    - Fine Arts/Performing Arts
    - STEM Activities
    - Citizenship/Character development
  - At the secondary level
    - ELA
    - Math
    - Social Studies
    - Science
    - Athletic Training
    - Health
    - Fine Arts/Performing Art
    - STEM Activities
    - Citizenship/Character Development
    - Foreign Language
    - CTE
  
- **Will Salt Lake Academy offer special student services like MLL, Gifted, and Special Education?**
  - Salt Lake Academy currently offers MLL services to qualifying students both during school and outside of regular school hours.
  - Salt Lake Academy offers Special Education services to qualifying students.

- Salt Lake Academy currently offers an array of Advance Placement and Concurrent Enrollment courses to high school age students.
  - Salt Lake Academy intends to offer advanced coursework or gifted services to identified students.
- **What grades will Salt Lake Academy offer?**
    - The new Salt Lake Academy organization will offer courses in Kindergarten through 12th grade. These grades will be distributed across both campuses with elementary and junior high classes on the current AAU campus and high school classes on the current SLA campus.
- **Does Salt Lake Academy have more funding than AAU?**
    - Salt Lake Academy is funded through federal, state and local funding just as AAU is. No additional funding other than grants is available for use.
    - Salt Lake Academy has effectively managed its funding and revenue effectively and will continue to do so.
- **Will there be a PTA/PTO?**
    - Athlos has a PTO. Salt Academy operates an educational foundation.
    - There will be a PTO that includes all grades beginning the 2025-26 school year.
    - The Salt Lake Academy will expand its programs to target grades K through 12.
- **Will my child have the same teachers next year as this year?**
    - Because this is a school closure and reopening, all current Athlos staff will have their employment agreements end on June 30. Athlos is closing.
    - Salt Lake Academy has posted jobs for all positions grades K to 12 and is currently interviewing candidates for all positions.
    - Current Athlos staff are given the chance to apply for and interview for ANY open position within the school system.
    - Outside candidates are given the chance to apply for and interview for ANY open position.
    - The most qualified candidates will be selected.
    - Salt Lake Academy is taking into consideration appropriate licensure, experience, references, evaluations and teaching experience when selecting teachers for the new Salt Lake Academy.
- **Is transportation available to my child?**
    - Salt Lake Academy currently has two community pick-up sites at trax stations in Daybreak and Thanksgiving Point?
    - The opportunity for elementary and junior high pick-up locations and times is currently being discussed and a decision will be released at a later date.

- **What will the new school mascot or image be?**
  - Salt Lake Academy and Athlos both currently use the Griffin as the mascot.
  - The Griffin will continue to be the mascot and school sports team image.
  
- **What type of athletic training is available to students at SLA?**
  - Salt Lake Academy currently has a strong partnership with Real Salt Lake Academy for boys and girls soccer.
  - Salt Lake Academy employs 7 soccer coaches, a sports medicine professional, and an athletic performance expert. Salt Lake Academy will expand its soccer instruction to accommodate the instruction of interested students in grades K to 8.
  - The new Salt Lake Academy intends to offer junior high sports in soccer, basketball, and volleyball either directly or through partner organizations.
  - Salt Lake Academy competes in soccer at the UHSAA 6A level for varsity, junior varsity and underclassmen divisions. SLA also competes in the UHSA leagues, SLA has WPSL, ECNL and multiple club teams under the Griffins FC name.
  - In Basketball SLA competes at the UHSAA 2A level for boys and girls.
  - In Volleyball SLA competes at the UHSAA 2A level for boys and girls.
  - SLA has had athletes compete in UHSAA track and field and wrestling in years past on an individual level.
  - SLA will continue to offer individual sports opportunities as appropriate for enrolled students.
  
- **Currently AAU and SLA do not operate on the same school schedule. What will next year look like?**
  - SLA is currently reviewing and evaluating the schedule as they exist now and will share a new adjusted schedule soon.
  - SLA intends to operate on a primary school schedule and a secondary school schedule that are separate according to the needs of the specific programs of study.
  - The primary school and secondary school schedules while not parallel WILL align sufficiently that siblings/families with children at both levels may transport their children at one time and not have to make multiple trips.
  
- **The Grading Scale at SLA and AAU are not the same. How will my student be graded?**
  - SLA is undergoing and grading scale review of both the SLA and the AAU grading scales. A single, uniform grading scale will be issued prior to the beginning of the 2025-26 school year.
  
- **How will the website and other online material be handled?**
  - The SLA website will be expanded to include all pertinent online resources for parents and students grades K to 12.
  - The AAU website will be discontinued and removed after July 1, 2025

- SLA utilizes Aspire and Canvas as its primary online platforms. AAU utilizes Powerschool and Canvas. Salt Lake Academy is currently investigating which online platforms to use and will convert to the use of Canvas and one other Learning Management system.

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