

Fiscal Highlights

Statewide Data Alliance and Utah Futures Report - Angela J. Oh

Senate Bill 34, *Statewide Data Alliance and Utah Futures*, was passed on the last night of the 2014 General Session. The bill consists of two main parts, Utah Futures and a statewide data system. Utah Futures is a web portal designed to help Utahns make decisions about education, career opportunities, financial aid, and etc. The statewide data system is a comprehensive system to enable the examination of educational progress and outcomes over time.

The bill amended provisions related to Utah Futures and established an evaluation panel to determine whether any or all components of Utah Futures should be outsourced to a private provider. The bill requires the evaluation panel to report to the Executive Appropriations Committee (EAC) on or before September 30, 2014.

The legislation also appropriated money to support the statewide data system. The table below lists the amounts that each entity received.

<i>Entity</i>	<i>Fund</i>	<i>Amount</i>	
		<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>One-Time</i>
Utah Education Network	Education Fund	\$ 345,000	\$ 300,000
Utah State Board of Education	Education Fund	\$ 355,000	
Utah College of Applied Technology	Education Fund	\$ 245,000	
State Board of Regents	Education Fund	\$ 245,000	
Utah Education Policy Center	Education Fund	\$ 310,000	
		\$ 1,500,000	\$ 300,000

Tami Pyfer, the Governor's Education Advisor, presented to EAC on behalf of the evaluation panel. The evaluation panel recommends that the development of Utah Futures continue, and that it be maintained in-house for the following reasons:

- Customization for students and residents of Utah, and the ability to be managed and controlled by state agencies in Utah.
- The states ability to secure user (student) data, and not be in a position where that data had to be delivered to an outside vendor. The site will be hosted by DTS with oversight under the Governors Office.
- Selecting a private vendor would take a minimum of 18 months to complete the request for proposal (RFP) process, purchase the product, import data, review security, implement, and train. The evaluation panel also noted that customization of a commercial product tends to increase costs.
- Likely, additional "transitional costs" such as retraining group members, implementers, and end users. And,
- Based on the success of other Utah "home grown" based-systems such as EREP, CATS, CUBS and FINET.

