

## Fiscal Highlights

### **Student Enrollment Continues to Grow** - Ben Leishman

A total of 644,476 students enrolled in Utah public schools this fall. This is an increase of 10,580 students, an increase of 1.67 percent. The total enrollment was approximately 851 students higher than originally projected last fall.

Over the past month, staff from the Fiscal Analyst Office have been working with staff from the Governor's Office and Utah State Board of Education to develop consensus student enrollment projections for fall 2017. This projection will be used to develop the FY 2018 budget. Student enrollment is projected to increase to a total of 654,565 students, an increase of 10,089 students or 1.57 percent.

We estimate that the total cost of this increased enrollment will be approximately \$102.7 million, with \$68.0 million coming from state funds and the remainder from local property tax revenue in the school districts.

As with all estimates, there remains some risk that the projected enrollment numbers will be too low or the taxable value of property within the school districts is too high, both scenarios may increase the cost of enrollment growth to the state. We will continue to monitor the factors used to develop the various projections throughout the coming months and recommend adjustments as needed.