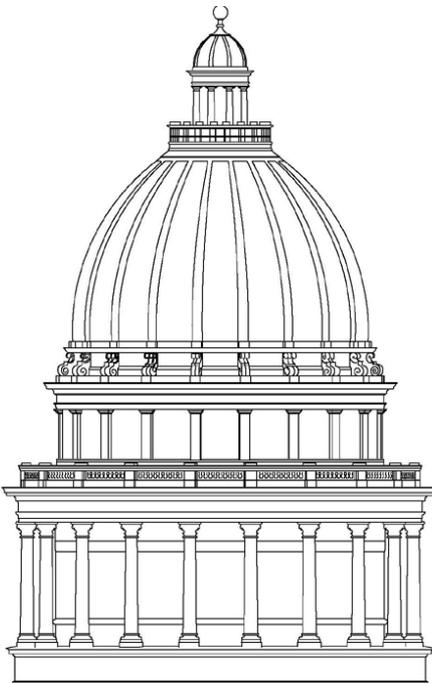


# A Performance Audit of Inmate High School Education

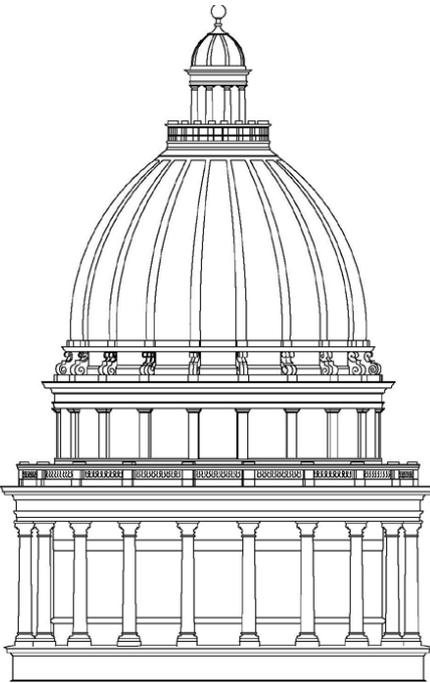


Utah Legislative Auditor General

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Public Education  
Appropriations Subcommittee  
October 2012

# Chapter I — Introduction

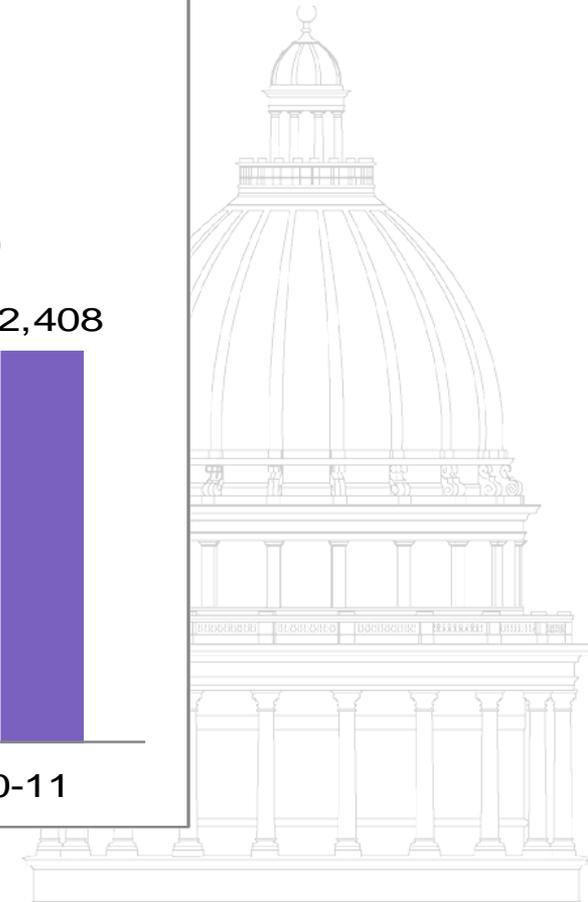
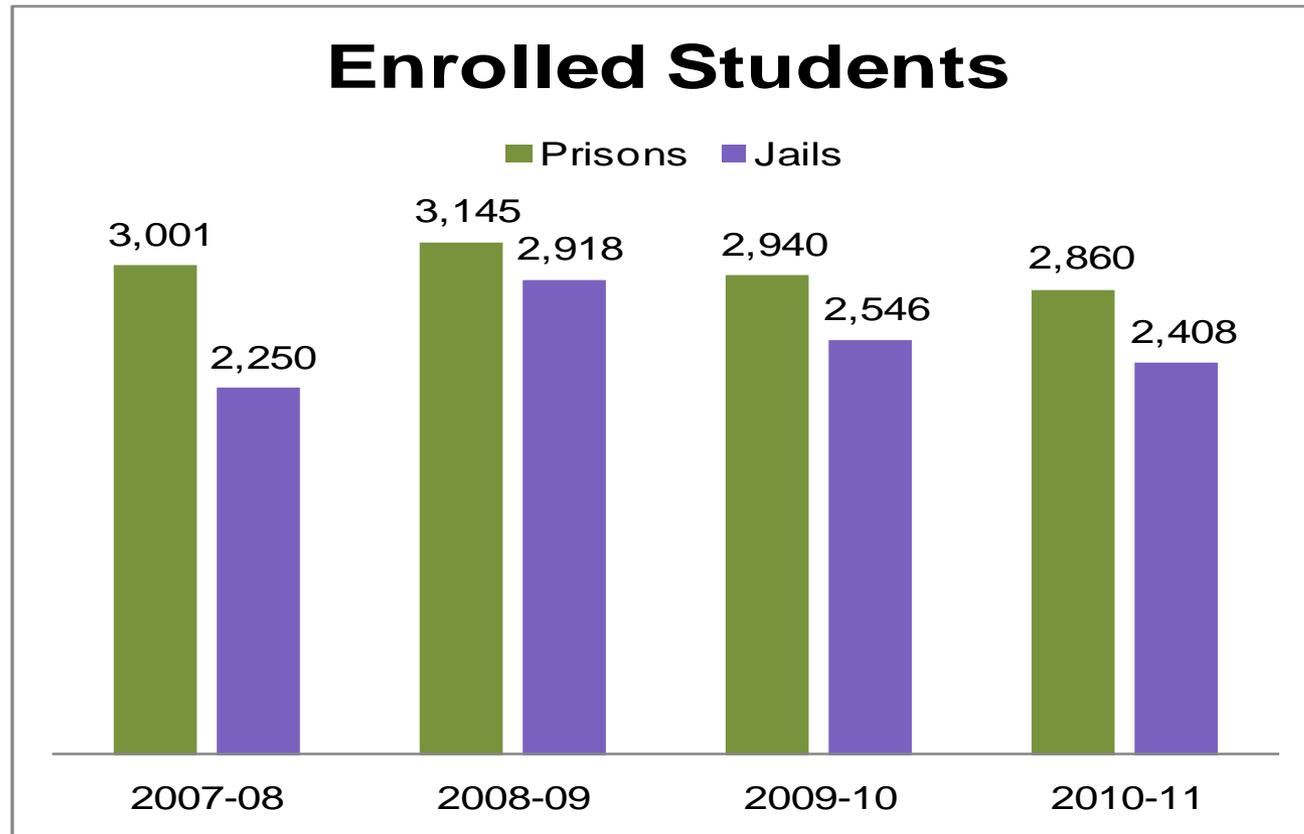


- Inmate HS education is provided by Adult Education Program of the school district where the inmate is incarcerated.
- USOE administers but school districts test, schedule, counsel and instruct.
- Districts track student demographics such as contact hours and outcomes.

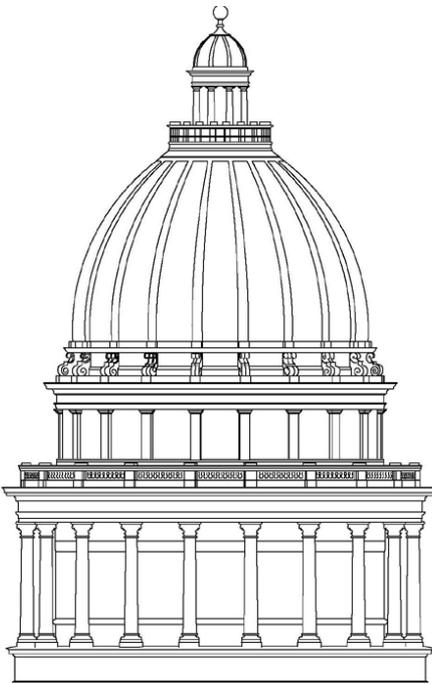
# Prison and Jail Inmates Enrolled in Adult Education

School District	Enrolled Students	School District	Enrolled Students
Beaver	222	Kane	9
Box Elder	67	Millard	76
Cache	33	Nebo	303
Carbon	29	San Juan	90
Daggett	15	Sevier	15
Davis (2 jails)	291	S Sanpete	37
Duchesne	69	Tooele	23
Garfield	78	Uintah	177
Granite (2 jails)	676	Wasatch (2 jails)	58
Iron	27	Washington	113
<b>Total Jail Program Students</b>			<b>2,408</b>
Draper Prison (Canyons)	1,959	Gunnison Prison (S Sanpete)	901
<b>Total Prison Program Students</b>			<b>2,860</b>
<b>Total Enrolled Students</b>			<b>5,268</b>

# Prison and Jail Inmates Enrolled in Adult Education



# Chapter II



**More Equitable Fund  
Distribution Is Needed**

# Cost of Inmate High School Education

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## **\$5.4 Million in 2011**

- Adult Education Funds (\$2.7 million)
- Corrections Education Funds (\$2 million)

### Lesser Funds:

- State Special Education (\$409 thousand)
- Federal Funds (\$282 thousand)

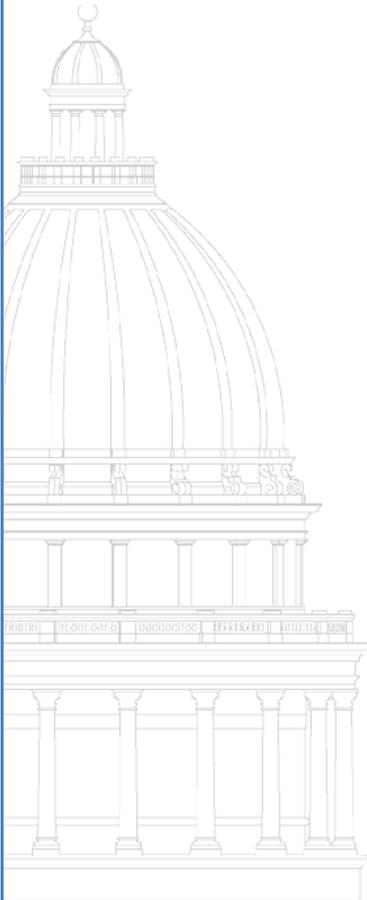
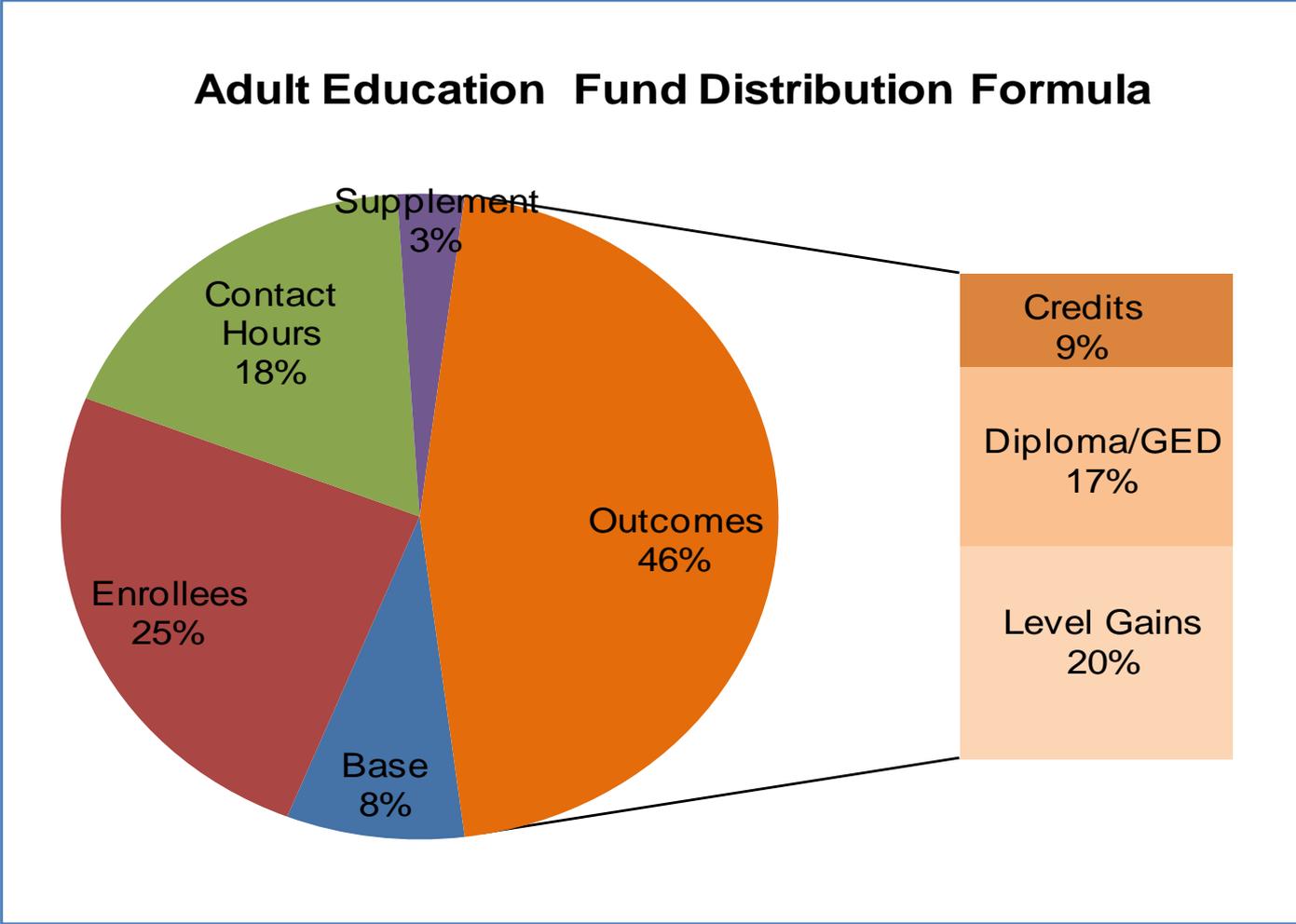


# Fund Distribution

	Jail Programs	Prison Programs	Total
Enrolled Inmate Students	2,408	2,860	5,268
Percent	46%	54%	100%
Adult Ed Funds—Per Formula	\$1,245,093	\$1,347,059	\$2,592,152
Adult Ed Supplemental	107,597		107,597
Corrections Education Funds		1,984,600	1,984,600
State-Special Education		409,407	409,407
Federal—Prisons & Institutions	219,625		219,625
Federal—Neglected & Delinquent		62,015	62,015
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,572,315</b>	<b>\$3,803,081</b>	<b>\$5,375,396</b>
<b>Percent of Total</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Per Student—Adult Ed Funds</b>	<b>\$562</b>	<b>\$471</b>	<b>\$512</b>
<b>Per Student—All Funds</b>	<b>\$653</b>	<b>\$1,330</b>	<b>\$1,020</b>

Figure 2.2, Page 7  
Office of the Legislative Auditor General

# Adult Education Fund Distribution



**Figure 2.3, Page 8**  
Office of the Legislative Auditor General

# Adult Education Fund Distribution

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- \$512 Inmate Students
- \$346 Traditional Students

Inmate programs benefit more because, with a captive audience, administrators can control attendance.



# Corrections Education Fund Distribution

	Funds		Enrolled Students		Per Student
<b>Draper Prison (Canyons)</b>	\$1,099,578	59%	1,959	68%	\$561
<b>Gunnison Prison (S Sanpete)</b>	779,846	41%	901	32%	\$866
<b>Contracted Jails</b>	0		Unknown		

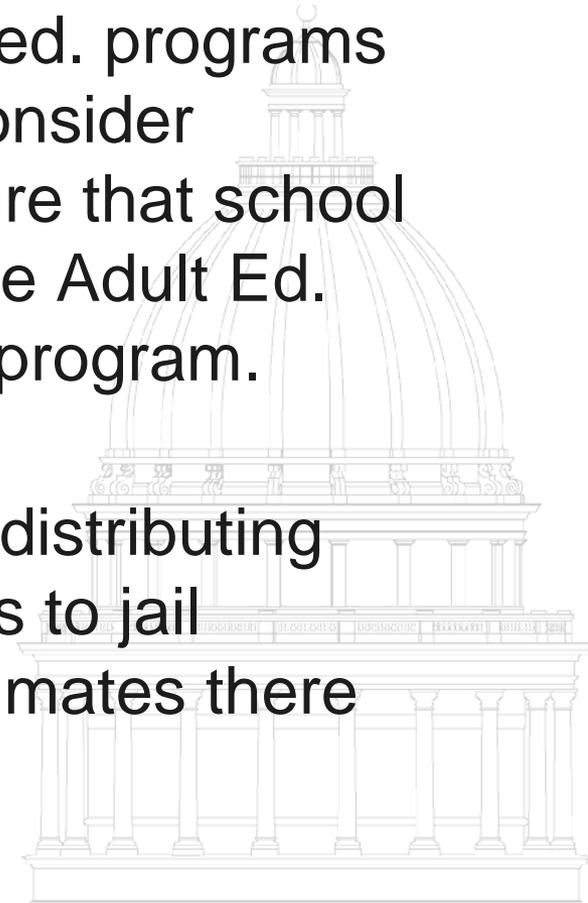
## Concerns:

1. Funds are distributed based on overall prison population, not the number of students. So, Gunnison receives more per student.
2. None of the Corrections Ed. funds are distributed to jail programs.

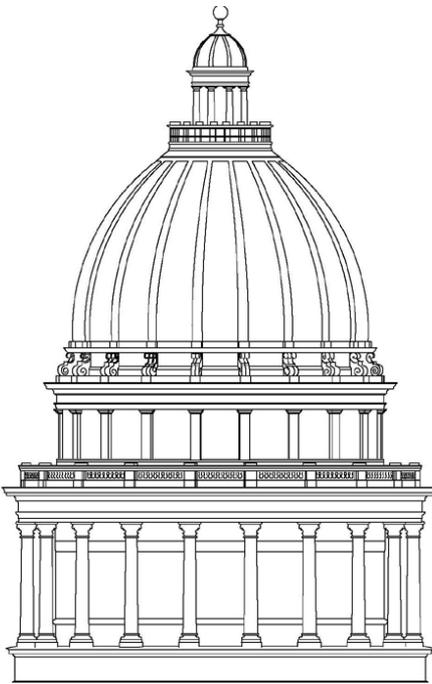
# Chapter II: Recommendations

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1. USOE evaluate whether traditional adult ed. programs have an unmet funding need. Further, consider modifying the distribution formula to ensure that school districts receive an equitable portion of the Adult Ed. Funds regardless if they have an inmate program.
2. USOE consider developing a formula for distributing Corrections Ed. Funds that includes funds to jail programs with students who are prison inmates there on a jail contract basis.



# Chapter III



**Academic Achievements  
Are Strong  
But Employment Benefits  
Are Unclear**

# Academic Outcomes

School District	Enrolled Students	Outcomes				Outcome per Student	Percent Dipl. & GED
		Dipl.	GED	Credits	Level Gains		
Jails	2,408	381	288	5,456	930	2.9	28%
Prisons	2,860	472	42	6,547	1,213	2.9	18%
Total Inmates	5,268	853	330	12,003	2,143	2.9	22%
Traditional Adult Ed. (Minus Inmates)	18,985	3,050		14,975	8,125	1.4	16%

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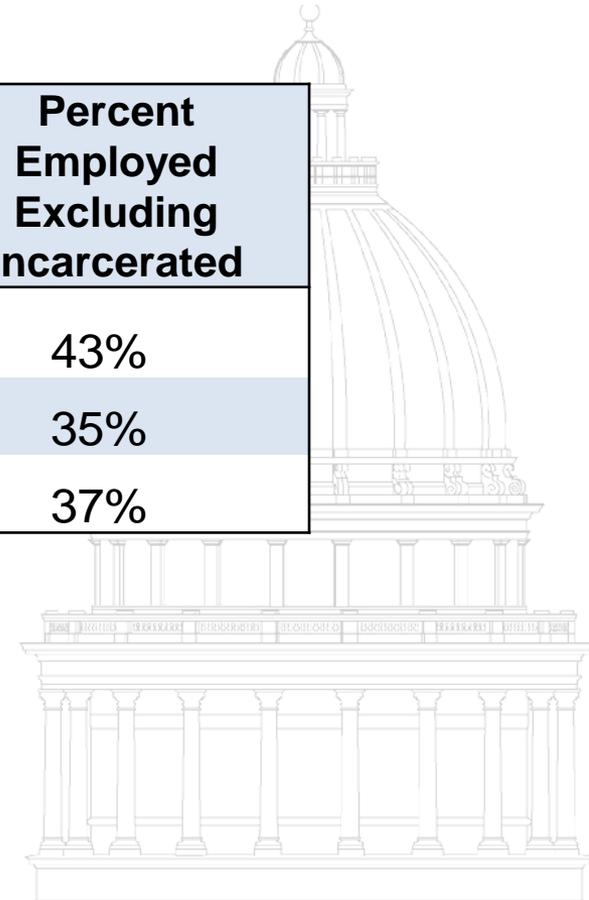
**Outcome per Student**

Figure 3.1, Page 15  
Office of the Legislative Auditor General

# Employment Outcomes Are Unclear

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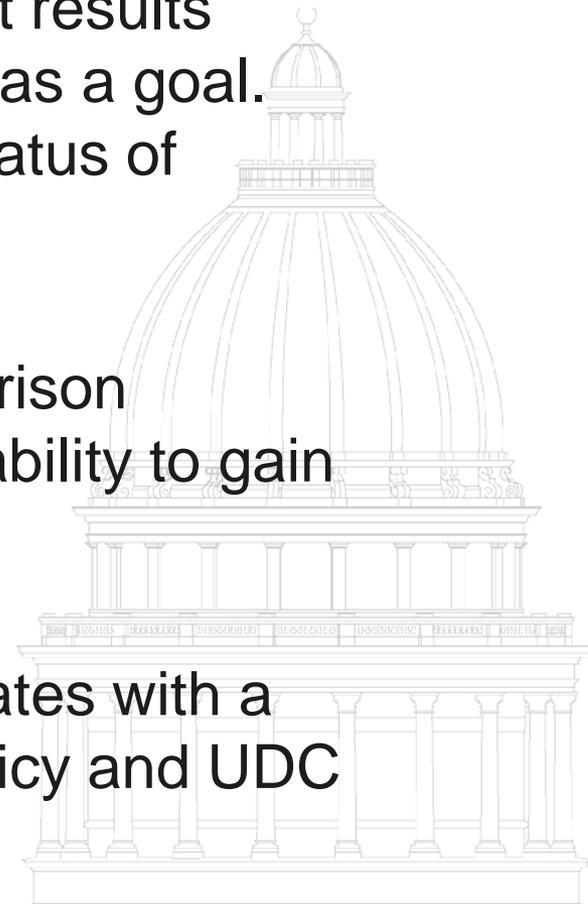
	Percent Employed		Percent Employed Excluding Incarcerated
<b>Beaver Jail Program</b>	17%	➔	43%
<b>Gunnison Prison Program</b>	22%	➔	35%
<b>Entire Inmate Program</b>	29%	➔	37%



# Employment Considerations for USOE

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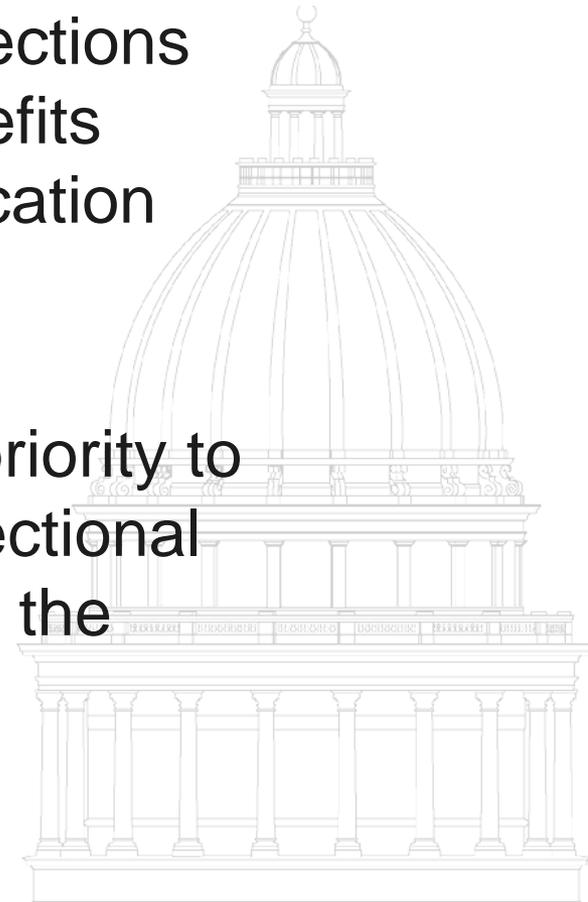
- USOE should expand review of employment results beyond just those who identify employment as a goal. USOE should also consider incarceration status of former students in analysis.
- USOE's analysis should consider that pre-prison employment history is a strong indicator of ability to gain employment after incarceration.
- Priority in education should be given to inmates with a pending release date. (Similar to federal policy and UDC vocational rehabilitation policy.)



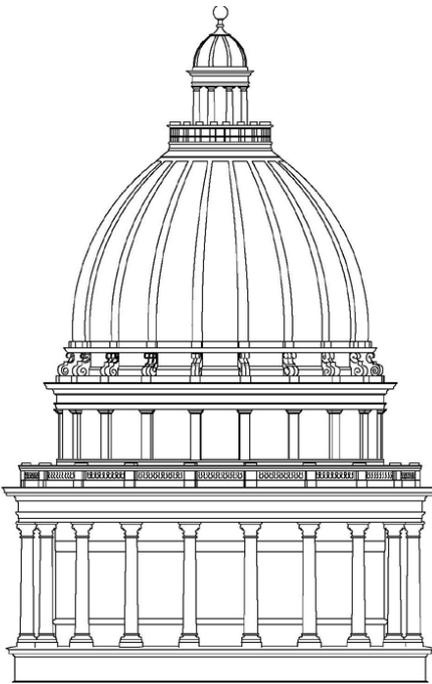
# Chapter III: Recommendations

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1. USOE and the Utah Department of Corrections partner to evaluate the employment benefits resulting from providing high school education programs to inmates.
2. USOE require inmate programs to give priority to students who are likely to leave the correctional facility within five years of participating in the education program.



# Chapter IV



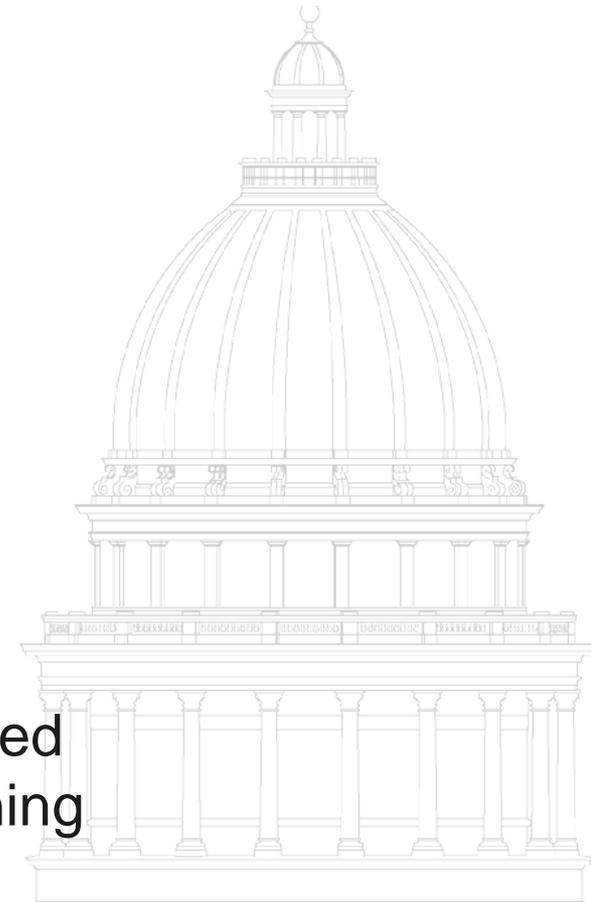
**Inefficient Programs  
Reduce Funds Available  
for Other Programs**

# Contact Hours

	Contact Hours	
	Per Student	Per Outcome
Jails	75	26
Prisons	158	55
<b>Total All Inmates</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>41</b>

## Inefficiencies Exist:

- Some inmates received excessive contact hours in the San Juan County jail
- Some inmates in the Gunnison prison received many additional educational hours *after* earning a diploma or GED



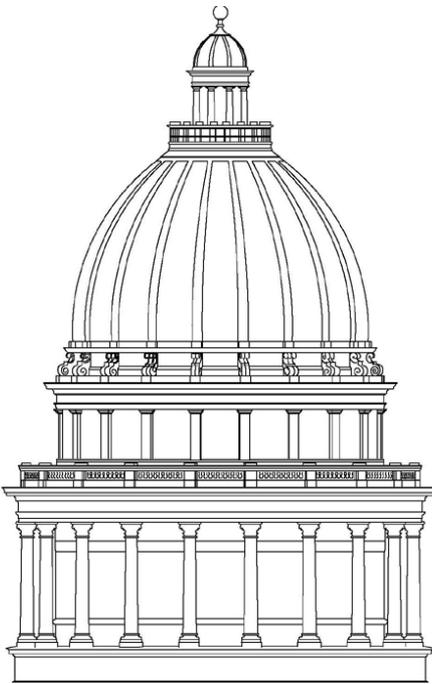
# Chapter IV: Recommendations

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1. USOE establish guidelines for the number of contact hours that are reasonable in relation to a student's accomplishments, and monitor that contact hours are not excessive.
2. USOE consider limiting the number of contact hours used for inmate students who already have a diploma.



# Inmate High School Education



Utah Legislative Auditor General

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October 2012

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