

EDUCATOR PROFESSIONAL LEARNING IN UTAH

History and Policy Options

*Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel
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What are we going to talk about today?

- ▶ Current educator professional learning statutes
- ▶ Statutory changes related to educator professional learning
- ▶ Funding for professional learning since 2000
- ▶ Policy options

What's currently in the code?

53A-3-701 Professional Learning Standards

Definition of professional learning

Requirement for school districts and charter schools to implement high quality professional learning

Standards for high quality professional learning

Requirement for the State Board of Education to collect and use data related to professional learning

What's currently in the code?

- ▶ Section 53A-17a-124 – Quality Teaching Block Grant Program – State contributions
 - ▶ Provides for the distribution of money to school districts and charter schools based on a formula created by the State Board of Education
 - ▶ Requires school districts and charter schools to use the money to implement professional learning that meets the standards in 53A-3-701
 - ▶ Has not received funding since fiscal year 2009

How did we get here?

Before Fiscal Year 2003

- ▶ The State Board of Education received an appropriation each year for professional development and/or career ladders
- ▶ In **2001**, the Legislature established requirements for school and school district professional development plans, and required the State Board of Education to identify resources required to implement each school's plan (*53A-3-701, Laws of Utah 2001, Ch. 335 § 2*).

How did we get here?

Fiscal Year 2003 through Fiscal Year 2009

- ▶ During the **2002** legislative session, the Quality Teaching Block Grant Program was created (*Section 53A-17A-124, Laws of Utah 2002, Ch. 279 § 15*)
- ▶ This block grant received funding through fiscal year **2009**

Quality Teaching Block Grant

School

Develop a comprehensive, long-term professional development plan



Local School Board or Charter School Governing Board

Review and either approve or recommend modifications to each school's plan

Approve in a public meeting a plan to spend Quality Teaching Block Grant funds



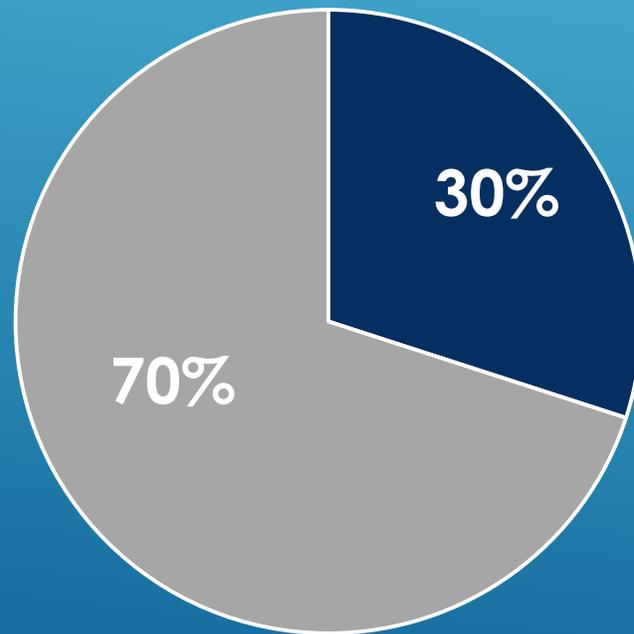
State Board

Receive plans and proof of approval from local school boards and charter school governing boards

Release Quality Teaching Block Grant funds to each school district and charter school

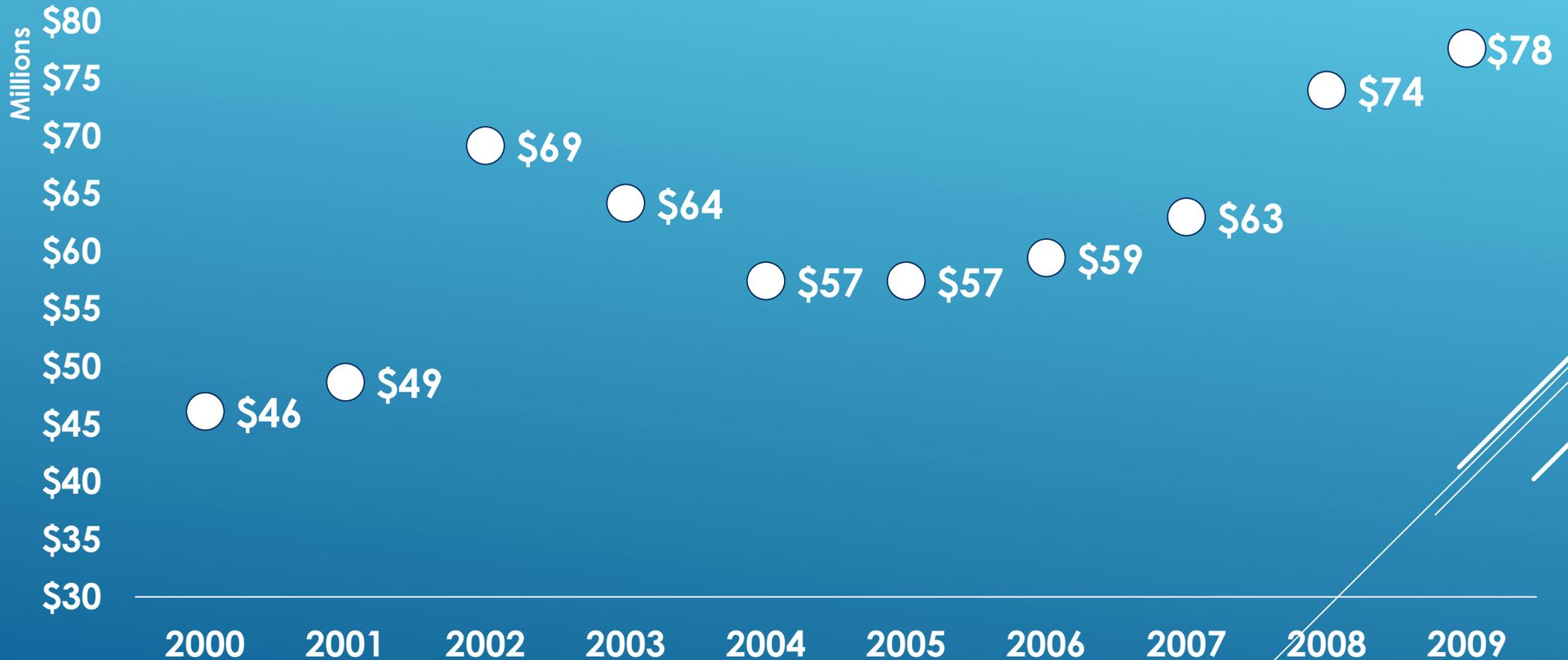
Quality Teaching Block Grant

- ▶ The State Board of Education developed a funding formula in rule (*UT ADC R277-478*):



- Funding based on full time equivalent employees in the previous school year
- Funding based on the number of WPUs in the basic program in the previous school year

State Funding for Educator Professional Learning FY 2000-2009

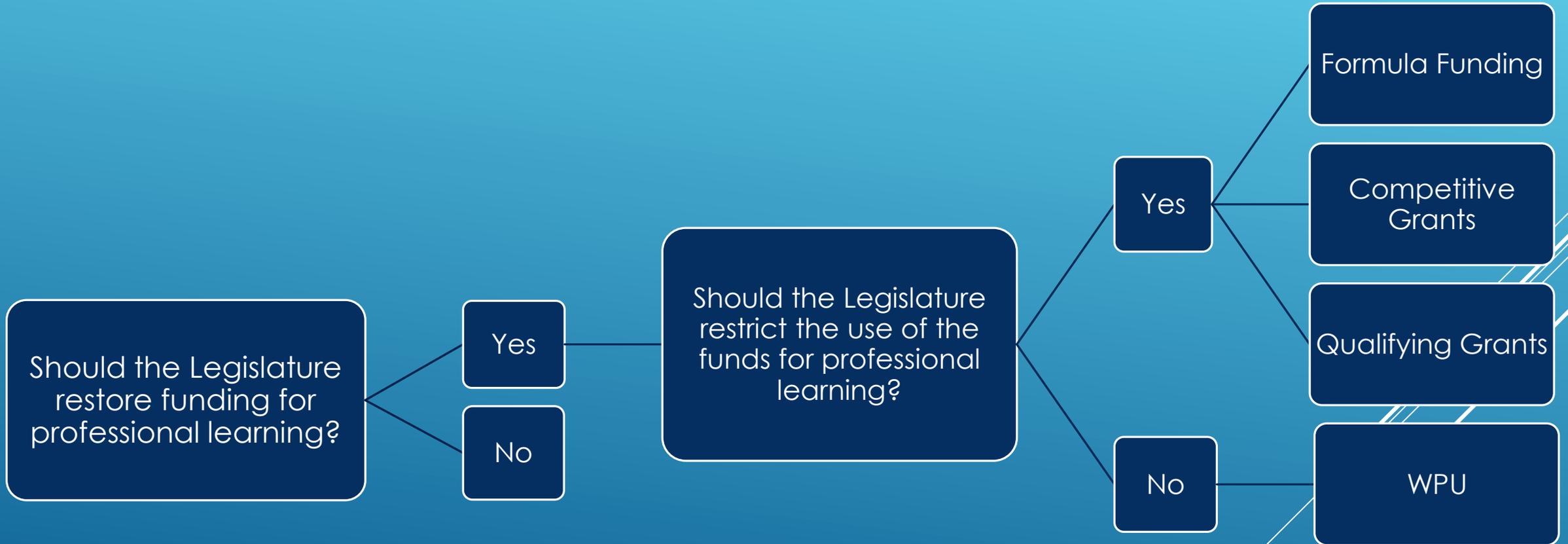


How did we get here?

Since Fiscal Year 2009

- ▶ 2014 H.B. 320 (*Laws of Utah 2014, Ch. 346 § 2*):
 - ▶ Repealed and re-enacted Section 53A-3-701
 - ▶ Eliminated the requirement for school and school district professional development plans
 - ▶ Codified the high quality professional learning standards
 - ▶ Did not restore funding for professional learning

What now?



Funding Options

Formula Funding

Distributes funds according to a precise formula specified in law

Provides for equity, local control, & predictability

Competitive Grants

Awards funds to select applicants on a competitive basis

Provides the ability to align funding with the most effective methods & allocate scarce resources

Qualifying Grants

Awards funds to all applicants that qualify

Hybrid of formula funding & competitive grants

Questions?

Please feel free to contact the education team with any questions:

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