



# THE EQUITY PUPIL UNIT

WHY WE NEED EQUITY IN PUPIL FUNDING  
AND HOW TO GET IT



# OUR COMMITMENT

- UTAH CONSTITUTION ARTICLE X: The Legislature shall provide for the establishment and maintenance of...a public education system, which shall be open to all children of the state...Public elementary and secondary schools shall be free.
- UCA 62A-4a-201(1)(d):
  - The state recognizes that:
    - (i) a parent has the right, obligation, responsibility, and authority to raise, manage, train, educate, provide and care for, and reasonably discipline the parent's children; and
    - (ii) the state's role is secondary and supportive to the primary role of a parent.

# WHAT THAT COMMITMENT MEANS

- The reason to build and fund schools is to support a parent in fulfilling the parent's obligation to educate a child
- Our commitment is to **EVERY** parent, **EVERY** family, and **EVERY** child.
- The **VALUE** of our education system isn't in the schools, the curriculum, or the teachers: It is in the **CHILD**.
- The value of a child's education doesn't change based on where that child lives or what model of school the child attends.

# THE SOLUTION: THE EQUITY PUPIL UNIT

- Tie increases in equity funding to increases in the Weighted Pupil Unit value
- Increase education funding faster to the lowest funded students to close the gap between the floor and the ceiling
- This proposal calls for sending 1/3 of the WPU increase to increase funding for lower funded students, and 2/3 distributed equally for all students



## WHAT THIS LEGISLATION DOES

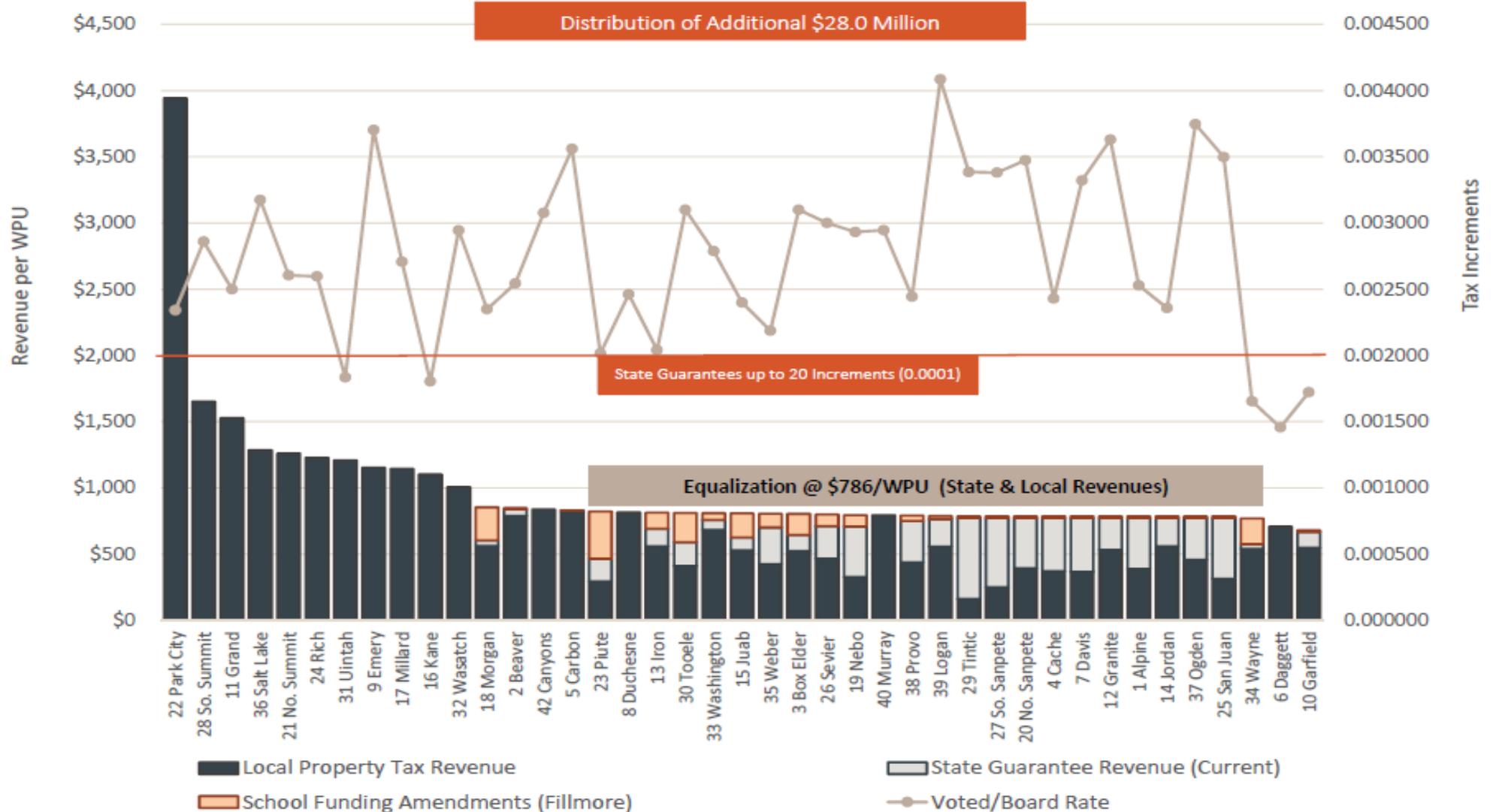
- Ties growth in state-matching funds for local property tax levies to WPU value growth so that a greater portion of new growth goes to lowest-funded districts.
- Provides state matching dollars to the board or local tax levy—it all comes from the same taxpayers
- Gradually closes the gap between high- and low-assessed value districts so that a similar effort in Piute will generate the same as that effort in Wasatch.
- Targets education funding increases where they are needed most.

## Voted & Board Local Levy Equalization - School Funding Amendments (Fillmore)

Local Property Tax & State Guarantee Revenue per Weighted Pupil Unit (WPU)

Compared to Local Property Tax Rates

State Guarantee Rate = \$39.31/WPU (Base Rate \$38.54/WPU)



Note: All estimates are based on FY 2017 initial data. All estimates will be updated prior to the 2017 General Session when updated property value and weighted pupil unit estimates are complete.

# THE PROMISE OF THE EQUITY PUPIL UNIT

- We have a moral and constitutional obligation to every child
- The value of a child's education doesn't change when a child moves
- The disparity in per student funding is resulting in wasteful education spending
- Closing the funding gap between the highest and lowest funded districts will mean more buying power in the market for teachers, which will drive teacher salaries higher
- Within a generation, we can achieve equitable funding for (nearly) every child