

Joint Education Conference – Day 1 Group Responses

What are the most important state-wide initiatives we could work on together to create a new story for Utah students?

- Elevate the teaching profession, including attracting and retaining quality teachers
- Find common ground among the education entities, including better communication*
- Create a statewide innovation grant program that would require measurable outcomes*
- Create a unified plan, including funding, that all stakeholders buy into*
- Provide individualized help for students who struggle
- Reduce class size
- Increase funding for teachers
- Improve teacher quality
- View principals as instructional leaders
- Innovate school year structures
- Empower effective teachers*
- Pay for actions not seat time
- Invest in early childhood, particularly full day kindergarten*
- Include more community engagement to direct the vision for the education of community members and policy makers
- Create more collaborative teacher preparation and professional development
- Have Utah become known as a state with a quality education system
- Develop a teacher mentor or teacher leader program*
- Incentivize teachers to stay in teaching
- Create an expectation that education bills will have an effective date 15 months after the end of the session
- Recruit best and brightest teachers
- Improve teaching morale
- Make students ready for life
- Provide more flexibility and use of prior learning assessments
- Increase teacher autonomy
- Receive less legislative interference*

*Initiatives suggested by more than one table

What other important ideas or comments arose from your conversation that we should be aware of?

- Early intervention for students who are not meeting proficiency in early grade reading and math*
- Professional Development Communities to provide mentoring to new teachers
- Funding for conferences like this one
- Funding for technology*
- Increased funding
- Use SAGE for teacher growth and to help better teach students
- More autonomy for teachers
- Pathways from K-12 to UCAT or Higher Education*
- Statewide campaign to promote the many college and career pathways
- Greater focus on competency based education*
- Public – private partnerships
- More role clarity for education governance
- Focus on special populations, including minorities, high mobility, poverty, etc.
- Focus on teacher education
- A change to the discussion around accountability and assessment – assessment has become an autopsy experience
- Over-emphasis on bachelor's degrees
- Class-size reduction

*Ideas or comments raised by more than one table