



# **Utah's Public Education Overview: Governance, Accountability, and Funding Systems**

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## What governs Utah's public education system?

**State constitution**

**Statutes**

**Administrative rules**

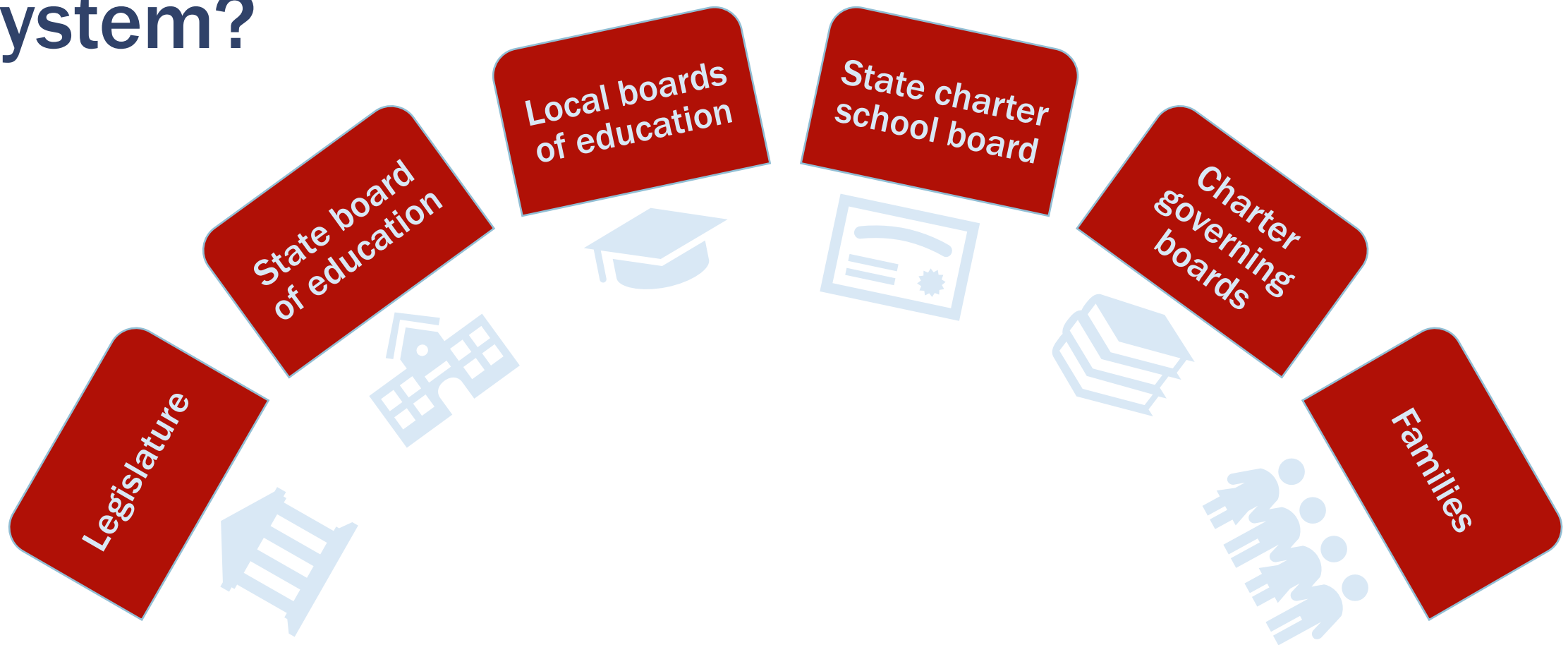
**LEA policies**

**School and classroom policies**



# Utah's Public Education System Overview

## Who is involved in Utah's public education system?



# Utah's Public Education System Overview



**Legislature**

**Establish and maintain a  
public education system** (Utah  
Constitution, Article X, Section 1)

**Role:**

- **Enact laws**
- **Funding**
- **Oversight**

# Utah's Public Education System Overview



**State board of  
education**

**General control and supervision  
of the public education system  
vested in the state board** (Utah Constitution,  
Article X, Section 3)

## **Role:**

- **Statewide education strategy**
  - Portrait of a graduate ([schools.utah.gov/portraitgraduate](https://schools.utah.gov/portraitgraduate))
- **Oversight**
- **Policy making**
- **Distribute funding**
- **Data collection and reporting**

# Utah's Public Education System Overview



**Local boards of  
education**

## **Role:**

- **Educating students**
- **Mission/vision for the district**
- **Operations**
- **Curriculum**



# Utah's Public Education System Overview

## Charter Schools

Public schools,  
public funding

Operate under a  
charter contract

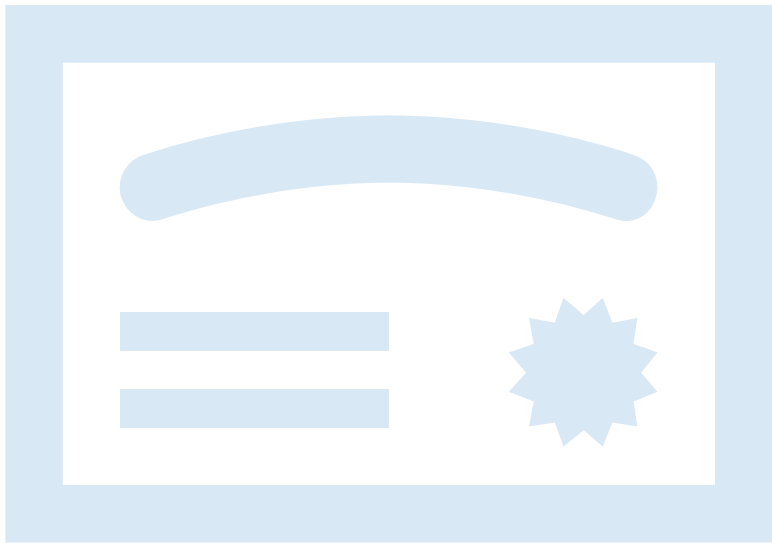
May be exempt  
from some  
rules/regulations

Charter  
authorizers

Function as their  
own LEA

More flexibility,  
more oversight

# Utah's Public Education System Overview



## **State charter school board**

### **Role:**

- **Authorizes the majority of Utah's charter schools**
- **Approve/reject charter applications**
- **Charter school monitoring**
- **Revoke charter contracts**



# Utah's Public Education System Overview

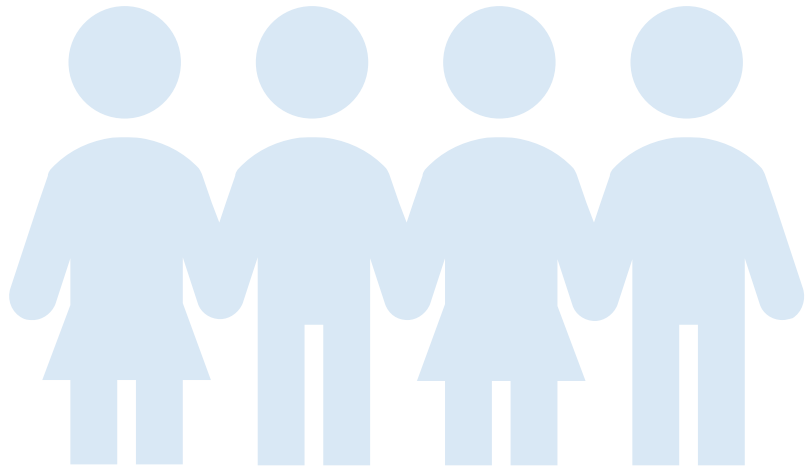


## **Charter school governing boards**

### **Role:**

- **School oversight**
- **Adopt annual budget**
- **Charter school contract specifies board composition and selection**
- **Comply with LEA governing board requirements**

# Utah's Public Education System Overview



**Families**

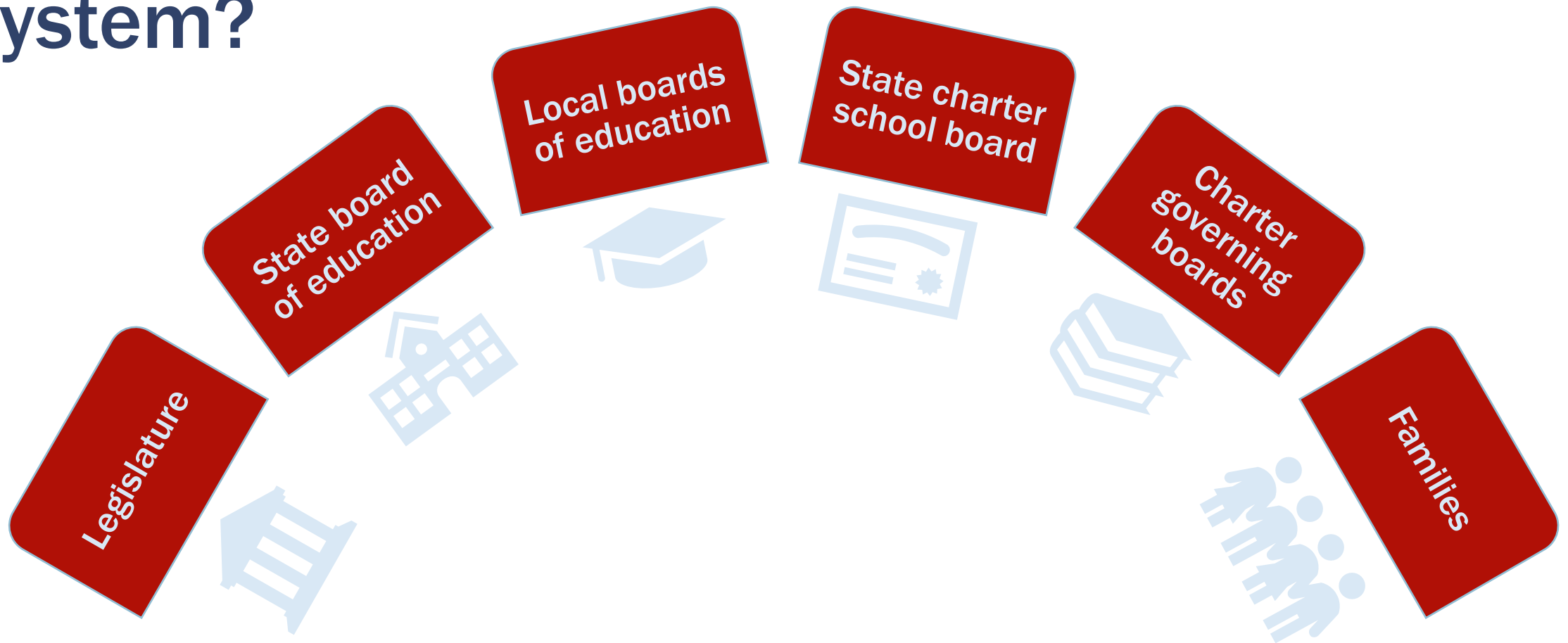
**Role:**

**“Parents have the primary responsibility for the education of their children...” (53E-2-201)**



# Utah's Public Education System Overview

## Who is involved in Utah's public education system?





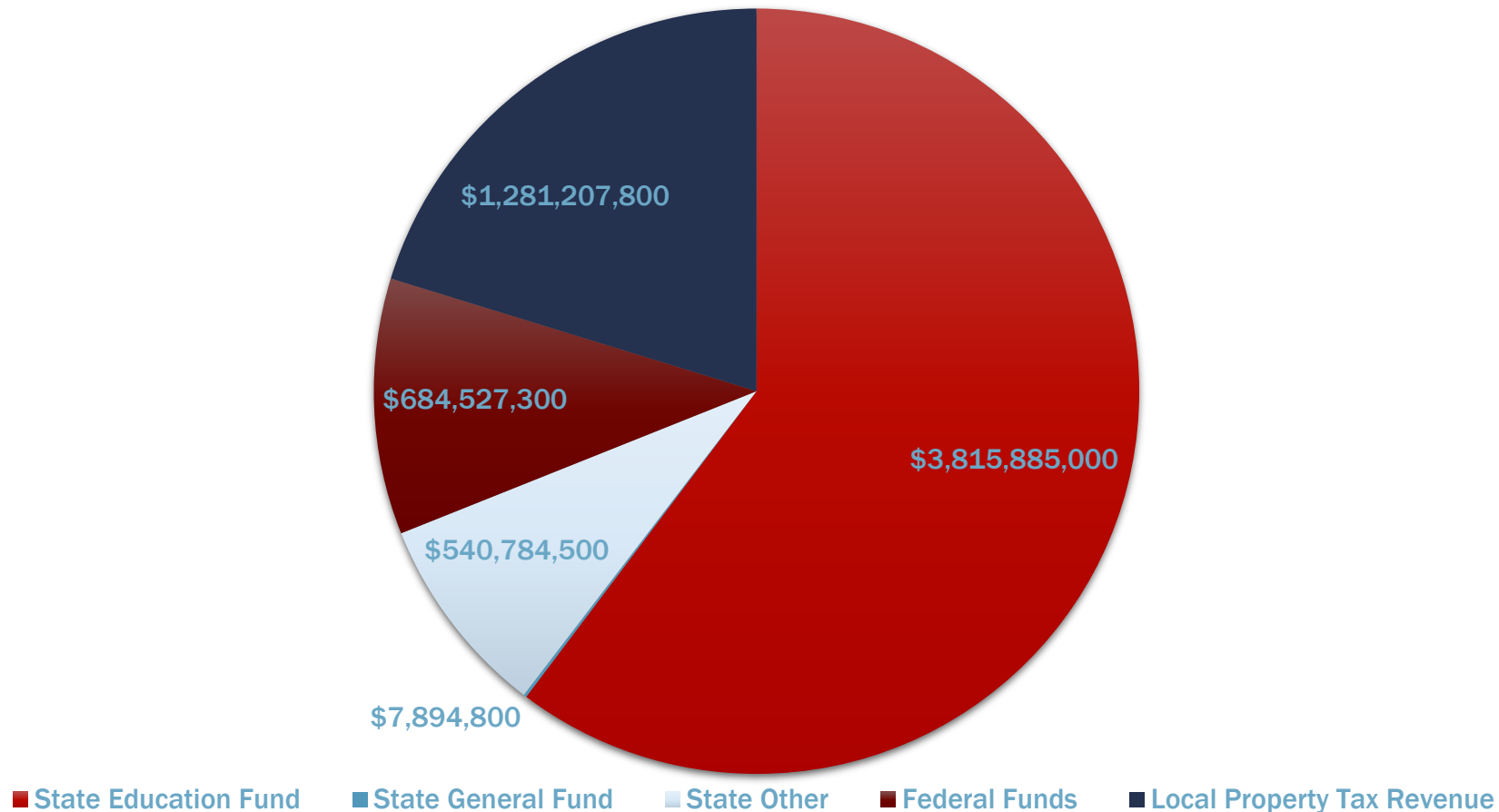
# K-12 Education Funding

- **System revenue streams**
- **Weighted Pupil Unit (WPU)**
- **Recent changes to the funding system**



# Public Education Revenue Sources

FY22-23 Sources - \$6.33B



# Most Public Education Funding is Based on:

Generation of WPUs

**Enrollment**



**Weightings**



Revenue for each WPU

**Value of the WPU** \$

(Number of WPUs) X (Value of Weighted Pupil Unit) = Amount of funding for public education Basic School Program

Certain student characteristics (Special Education, Students At-risk of Academic Failure, etc.) result in additional funding through an Add-on formula to the WPU



# Local Funding

Levy and Description	Rate	Extent Equalized	Required statewide	Discretionary set by local school board	Discretionary requires approval by voters
<b><u>Minimum Basic Rate</u></b> (Rate floor and WPU value rate) – local contribution to minimum school program	Estimated by Legislature and set annually by tax commission – .001661 for 2022	Fully equalized	✓		
<b><u>Voted local levy</u></b> unrestricted use for operations	Up to .0020	Partially equalized			✓
<b><u>Board local levy</u></b> unrestricted use for operations	Up to .0025	Partially equalized		✓	
<b><u>Capital local levy</u></b> restricted for capital facilities and certain other allowed uses	Up to .0030	Minimally equalized		✓	
<b><u>Bonds</u></b> used for new capital facilities	No statutory cap	Not equalized			✓



# Recent changes

- **2020 Constitutional Amendment:**
  - Voters approved amendment that expanded use of income tax to include programs that support children and persons with disabilities (Article XIII, Section 5)
  - Legislature adopted statutory framework that provides stabilization of education funding (HB 357, 2020 General Session)
    - Enrollment growth and inflation in public education base budget
    - Creation of “working rainy day fund”
- **2021 Students At-risk Add-on:**
  - SB 142: created WPU add-on for students at higher risk of academic failure. Provides additional funding for students who are economically disadvantaged and/or English language learners.





# Fiscal Year 2023 Base Budget

**What did these changes mean for this year's base education budget?**

**\$263 million additional on-going and \$19 million one-time for FY2023**

**Includes additional funding for**

- Enrollment Growth
- Inflation Adjustment on WPU value
- Increasing At-Risk Weighting
- Economic Stabilization Account Deposits



# Utah's School Accountability System

## Utah's School Accountability System

*The state board annually publishes report cards for schools and districts with information about their students' performance in multiple areas, including performance and growth on statewide assessments.*

*The state board identifies the lowest performing schools, which are subject to interventions.*

Student performance goals

Five indicators for measuring progress

Statewide assessments

School/district report cards

School support and improvement



# Utah's School Accountability System

Student performance goals

Five indicators for measuring progress

Statewide assessments

School/district report cards

School support and improvement

## Five indicators used to measure student progress:

- Performance on state tests
- Growth on state tests
  - All students
  - Lowest-performing 25% of students
- English-language proficiency
- High school graduation rates
- Postsecondary readiness
  - ACT in grade 11
  - Student achievement in advanced coursework



# Utah's School Accountability System

Student performance goals

Five indicators for measuring progress

**Statewide assessments**

School/district report cards

School support and improvement

## **Achievement and growth**

**Achievement/Proficiency: one-time snapshot**

**Growth: time-lapse photo**

**Grades K-8: Math, ELA, science, writing**

**High school: College readiness (2)**

**English learner assessment**

**State superintendent recommends, Utah  
State Board of Education approves,  
parent review committee**



# Utah's School Accountability System

Student performance goals

Five indicators for measuring progress

Statewide assessments

School/district report cards

School support and improvement

**Utah State Board of Education issues yearly report cards for districts and schools, including:**

- **School performance on each of the five indicators**
- **Percent student assessment participation**
- **A-F letter grade, calculated based on school performance on the five indicators**
  - *The legislature exempted this requirement in 2020 and 2021; the state board has yet to issue school letter grades.*
- **Other grade-specific information**
- **Optional: 1-2 other self-reported school quality indicators**



# Utah's School Accountability System

2018-2019 | 2019-2020 | **2020-2021**

## OVERALL PERFORMANCE (HS)

Parents are critical partners in a school's success. Just as your child's report card shows how your child is performing, this school report card shows you how your child's school is performing in multiple areas. It is designed to show the school's strengths and areas in need of improvement in order to ensure Utah schools are meeting the needs of all students. To learn more, see [Frequently Asked Questions](#).



Due to the impacts of COVID-19, interpret 2021 scores with extreme caution. Comparisons of 2021 scores to previous years or across student groups, schools, and districts are not advised.

### HOW IS THE STATE PERFORMING IN EACH COMPONENT?

PARTICIPATION RATE: 80%-90%

<p><b>ACHIEVEMENT</b></p> <p>English Language Arts 39.3%</p> <p>Mathematics 27.1%</p> <p>Science 33.5%</p> <p><a href="#">View Details</a></p>	<p><b>GROWTH</b></p> <p>English Language Arts ND -</p> <p>Mathematics ND -</p> <p>Science ND -</p> <p>Growth of Lowest 25% ND -</p>
<p><b>ENGLISH LEARNER PROGRESS</b></p> <p>English Learners' Adequate Progress 32.4%</p> <p>English Learners Reaching Proficiency 5.8%</p> <p><a href="#">View Details</a></p>	<p><b>POSTSECONDARY READINESS</b></p> <p>ACT 18+ 53.3%</p> <p>4-Year Graduation Rate 81.1%</p> <p>Readiness Coursework 91.1%</p> <p><a href="#">View Details</a></p>



Indicators for measuring student progress

### HOW IS THE DISTRICT PERFORMING ON OTHER MEASURES OF DISTRICT QUALITY? (UNSCORED)

<p><b>SELF REPORTED INDICATORS</b></p> <p>District Accountability</p> <p><a href="#">View Details</a></p>	<p><b>OTHER MEASURES (UNSCORED)</b></p> <p>Consistent Attendance 70.9%</p> <p>Postsecondary Enrollment 33.2%</p> <p><a href="#">View Details</a></p>
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### HOW ARE INDICATORS WEIGHTED IN THE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM?

#### POINTS WEIGHTED TO OVERALL SCORE



[View more info on the system >](#)  
[View more info on the calculation >](#)

Report cards for school districts and individual schools:

[Utahschoolgrades.schools.utah.gov](https://utahschoolgrades.schools.utah.gov)



# Utah's School Accountability System

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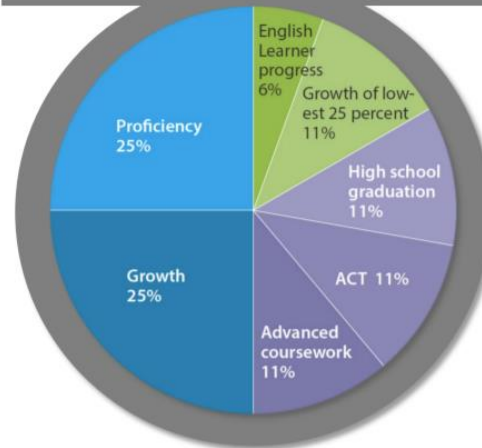
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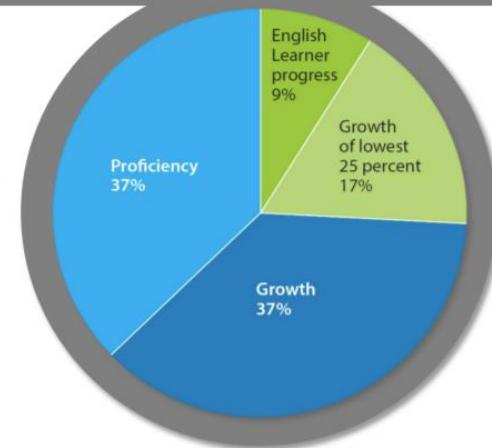
**[Utahschoolgrades.schools.utah.gov](http://Utahschoolgrades.schools.utah.gov)**

## Utah School Accountability

Increased Focus on Equity, College and Career Readiness, and Our Lowest Performing Students



High School Indicators



Elementary and Middle School Indicators



# Utah's School Accountability System

## Recent Legislation

**S.B. 220**

Enacted Utah's current accountability system

**S.B. 3005 (3rd Special Session)**

Exempted assessment requirements for 2019-2020 school year

2017

2020

2020

2021

**S.B. 119**

Suspended requirement to issue school grades, 2018-19 and 2019-2020 school years

**S.B. 184**

For the 2020-21 school year, exempts the state board from:

- Identifying low-performing schools
- Issuing school grades
- Publishing school report cards



# Utah's School Accountability System

## Accountability System Redesign

Better align with:

- Personalized, competency-based learning
- Portrait of a Graduate

**Utah Talent**

**KEY**

- M** **Mastery** is the ability to demonstrate depth of knowledge and skill proficiency.
- A** **Autonomy** is having the self-confidence and motivation to think and act independently.
- P** **Purpose** guides life decisions, influences behavior, shapes goals, offers a sense of direction, and creates meaning.

Utah's Portrait of a Graduate identifies the ideal characteristics of a Utah graduate after going through the K-12 system. These are aspirations not necessarily meant to be quantified and measured. These characteristics begin at home and are cultivated in educational settings.

**Utah Graduates:**

- Academic Mastery:** Demonstrate a depth of knowledge in multiple subject areas to make informed decisions.
- Wellness:** Develop self-awareness, self-advocacy skills, and the knowledge to maintain healthy lifestyles that provide balance in life and improve physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being.
- Civic, Financial & Economic Literacy:** Understand various governmental and economic systems, and develop practical financial skills.
- Digital Literacy:** Adapt, create, consume, and connect in productive, responsible ways to utilize technology in social, academic, and professional settings.
- Communication:** Communicate effectively through reading, writing, speaking, and listening to understand information in a variety of contexts, media, and languages.
- Critical Thinking & Problem Solving:** Access, evaluate, and analyze information to make informed decisions, recognize bias, and find solutions.
- Creativity & Innovation:** Imagine, visualize, and demonstrate creative practices, innovative solutions, and artistic expression.
- Collaboration & Teamwork:** Contribute ideas, perspectives, and experiences to cultivate a community of shared accountability and leadership.

Utah State Board of Education | Approved May 2019

**OUR VISION**

Upon completion, all Utah students are prepared to succeed and lead by having the knowledge and skills to learn, engage civically, and lead meaningful lives.

**UTAH GRADUATES**

- Honesty, Integrity, & Responsibility:** Are trustworthy, ethical, reliable, and are accountable for the results they produce.
- Hard Work & Resilience:** Set personal goals, apply best efforts to achieve them, and persevere when faced with challenges and setbacks.
- Lifelong Learning & Personal Growth:** Continue to seek knowledge and develop skills in all settings.
- Service:** Seek opportunities to help when assistance is needed and act without expecting compensation or recognition.
- Respect:** Acknowledge differences by looking for the good in everyone, including oneself, and show due regard for feelings, rights, cultures, and traditions.

The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) is continuing the innovation for competency-based learning to improve educational outcomes in public schools by advancing student mastery of concepts and skills. The agency will be building on the Utah Talent MAP vision for graduates to design prototype competencies for secondary education in Spring 2020.

**Data Gathering & Portrait of a Graduate** | **Local Implementation Phase**

Timeline: Spring 2019, Spring 2020, 2021

**Development of Competencies**

To learn more about Utah's Competency-Based Learning, please visit: [schools.utah.gov/curr/competencybased](https://schools.utah.gov/curr/competencybased).

Utah State Board of Education | Approved May 2019



# Utah's School Accountability System

## Accountability System Redesign

### Redesign Committees

## Accountability Redesign Committees

### Executive Committee (17 Members)

- Utah House
- Utah Senate
- Utah State Board
- Governor's Office
- USSA/USBA/SCSB

### Advisory Committee (29 Members)

- LEA Leadership
- Assessment directors
- School leadership
- Teachers
- Parents

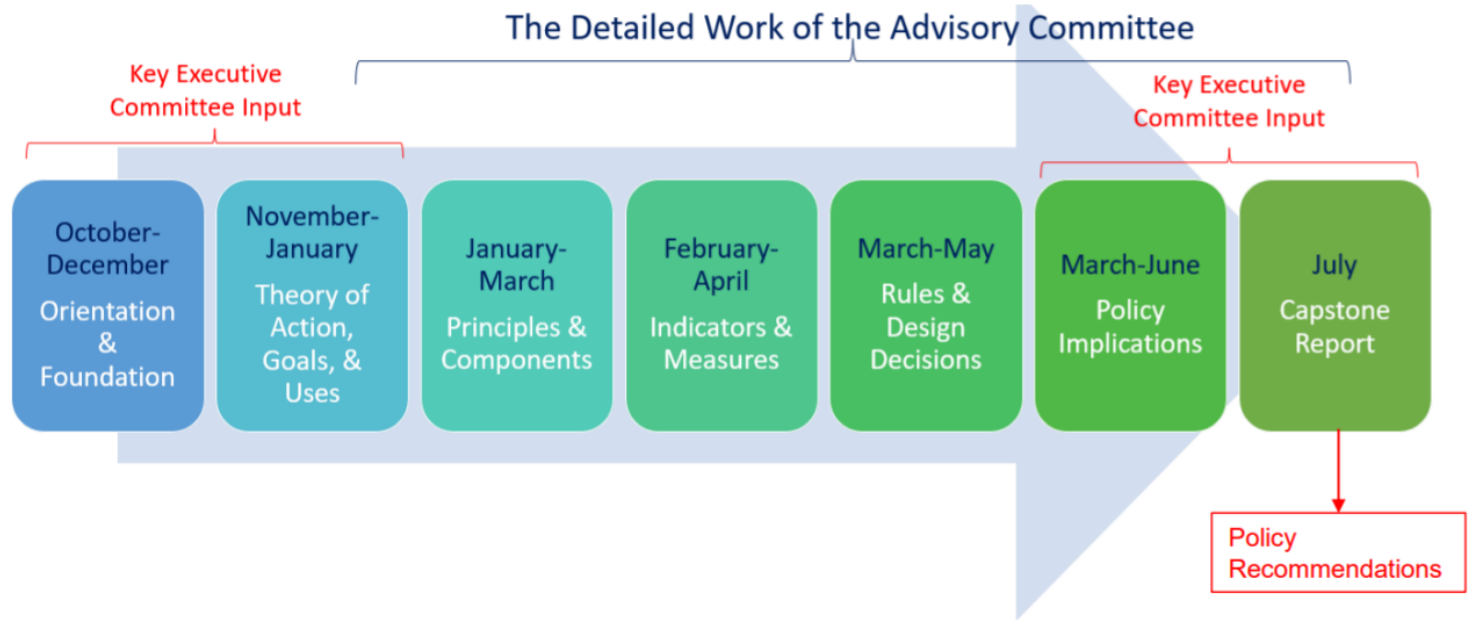


# Utah's School Accountability System

## Accountability System Redesign

### Timeline

### Work Trajectory





# Utah's School Accountability System

## Accountability System Redesign

### Public Input



January 19, 2022

For Immediate Release

Contact: Darin Nielsen, assistant superintendent of student learning  
801-538-7760 · [darin.nielsen@schools.utah.gov](mailto:darin.nielsen@schools.utah.gov)

#### State Board of Education Seeks Public Feedback on School Accountability Redesign

SALT LAKE CITY – The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) and the Utah State Legislature are partnering to reexamine the state's school accountability system. The current [Utah School Accountability System](#) was established through [Senate Bill 220](#) during the 2017 legislative session, prior to the advancement of the [Personalized, Competency-Based Learning](#) and [Portrait of a Graduate](#) initiatives. The pandemic has highlighted the dependency of the school accountability system on access to state assessment results. The state is seeking to build a new accountability system to be:

- Inclusive of the additional initiatives
- More comprehensive in evaluation criteria
- Aligned with and supportive of continuous school improvement efforts for all schools

For this work to be successful, the state needs to hear from the public on the information needed to better understand school quality. USBE is asking interested members of the public to take a [10-minute, online survey](#) to provide input on the future of school accountability in Utah. The survey will be open until February 18, 2022. USBE will offer both virtual and in-person opportunities to engage further along in the process.

Short Link: <http://ow.ly/evcU50Hy8zs>

Full Link: [https://knowledgeworks.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0CIA5UBG0FzL0mG](https://knowledgeworks.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0CIA5UBG0FzL0mG)