

Joint Resolution Regarding LEA Reporting Requirements

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Doug Welton

Senate Sponsor:

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This resolution addresses the need for comprehensive fiscal impact analysis of legislation on local education agencies.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- acknowledges the importance of understanding fiscal impacts of legislation on local education agencies;
- recognizes the partnership between the Legislature, State Board of Education (state board), and local education stakeholders;
- supports the development of systematic processes for collecting and analyzing local education agency fiscal impact data;
- calls on the state board to collaborate with local education agencies and stakeholders to provide real-time fiscal impact information to the Legislature; and
- requests specific recommendations for implementing local education agency fiscal impact analysis systems.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

WHEREAS, the state's commitment to educational excellence depends on thoughtful policy-making that considers the full impact of legislation on all levels of the education system;

WHEREAS, local education agencies serve as the primary implementers of state education policy and are directly affected by legislative decisions;

WHEREAS, the Legislature values partnerships with education stakeholders, including the state board, local school boards, charter governing boards, superintendents, business

administrators, charter directors, and education associations in creating effective education policy;

WHEREAS, legislation affecting education often has varying fiscal impacts across different local education agencies based on factors such as enrollment size, geographic location, student demographics, and existing infrastructure;

WHEREAS, current fiscal note processes primarily focus on state-level fiscal impacts and may not fully capture the diverse effects of legislation on individual local education agencies;

WHEREAS, local education agency business administrators and financial officers possess specialized knowledge about operational costs, funding mechanisms, and implementation challenges that is essential for comprehensive fiscal analysis;

WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that informed decision-making requires understanding both state-level and local-level fiscal implications of proposed legislation;

WHEREAS, timely access to local education agency fiscal impact information during the legislative session would enhance the Legislature's ability to make well-informed policy decisions;

WHEREAS, collaborative processes between state and local education entities strengthen the education system and ensure effective use of public resources;

WHEREAS, transparency in fiscal impact analysis supports public accountability and builds trust between state government and local communities;

WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that multiple mechanisms could enhance local education agency fiscal impact analysis, including the state board utilizing the local impact section of fiscal note submissions to provide timely local education agency fiscal impact assessments;

WHEREAS, establishing a rotating committee of local education agency business administrators to review proposed legislation during the legislative session could provide valuable fiscal impact feedback from practitioners with direct implementation experience;

WHEREAS, the state board could create an accessible online tracking system or document that would provide real-time local education agency fiscal impact information for legislators, stakeholders, and the public;

WHEREAS, developing standardized templates and methodologies for local education agency fiscal impact analysis would ensure consistency and accuracy across different local education agencies;

WHEREAS, establishing rapid response protocols for high-priority legislation could help identify significant impacts on local education agencies before final legislative action;

65 WHEREAS, creating feedback mechanisms that allow local education agencies to report
66 actual versus projected fiscal impacts of enacted legislation would improve future impact
67 analysis accuracy;

68 WHEREAS, the state board has established relationships with key stakeholder
69 organizations, including the Joint Leadership Council, the Utah School Boards Association,
70 the Utah Association of School Business Officials, the Utah School Superintendents
71 Association, and charter school associations;

72 WHEREAS, local education agencies employ subject matter experts in education finance,
73 including business administrators, financial officers, and budget analysts, who possess
74 essential knowledge for accurate fiscal impact assessments;

75 WHEREAS, training and resources would help local education agencies participate
76 effectively in fiscal impact analysis processes and standardize assessment methodologies
77 across districts and charter schools;

78 WHEREAS, regular updates to legislative committees on implementation and effectiveness
79 would ensure accountability and continuous improvement of local education agency fiscal
80 impact analysis systems; and

81 WHEREAS, effective fiscal impact analysis requires ongoing collaboration and
82 communication between state and local education entities supported by appropriate legislative
83 processes and resources:

84 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature supports the development of
85 comprehensive systems or processes to analyze and communicate the fiscal impacts of
86 legislation on local education agencies.

87 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature supports the state board in working
88 collaboratively with local education agencies and stakeholder organizations to establish
89 processes for providing local education agency-level fiscal impact information during
90 legislative sessions.

91 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature calls on the state board to develop and
92 implement mechanisms for gathering and disseminating local education agency fiscal impact
93 information as outlined in the whereas clauses of this resolution.