

Keven J. Stratton proposes the following substitute bill:

**Joint Resolution Supporting Devolution of Power  
from the U.S. Department of Education to the States**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Nicholeen P. Peck**

Senate Sponsor: Keven J. Stratton

---

---

**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This resolution supports federal efforts to eliminate the United States Department of Education.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

- identifies the federal overreach of the United States Department of Education resulting in burdensome regulations and significant economic and educational costs to students and the states;
- supports President Trump's desire to move control of federal education dollars to the states to promote better outcomes in the education of students; and
- urges the United States Congress to cooperate in the efforts to move education funding to the states.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

---

---

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

WHEREAS, the state of Utah has established in Section 53E-2-201 that the continuous cultivation of an informed and virtuous citizenry among succeeding generations is essential to the state and the nation;

WHEREAS, the Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution reserves to the states any powers not delegated to the federal government;

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution does not give the federal government any

28 authority or responsibility regarding education;

29 WHEREAS, since its creation in 1979, the United States Department of Education has  
30 significantly overreached through burdensome regulations and one-size-fits-all mandates;

31 WHEREAS, despite an annual budget of \$60 billion and another \$276 billion in one-time  
32 spending for COVID-19 recovery efforts, the appropriation of significant funding has not  
33 resulted in a considerable increase in measurable educational outcomes for students;

34 WHEREAS, federal inefficiencies are obvious where 4th and 8th grade reading scores have  
35 remained the same as they were in the early 1990s when federal measurements first began;

36 WHEREAS, states and local communities are best suited to administer the public education  
37 system because local governments are directly accountable to the students and parents within  
38 the community;

39 WHEREAS, state and local knowledge of students' educational needs is fundamental to  
40 developing the curriculum and policies that reflect local values and priorities;

41 WHEREAS, direct appropriations of funds to the state would provide necessary resources  
42 to provide for the educational needs of the students of the state;

43 WHEREAS, President Trump has expressed a desire to rightfully put the states back in  
44 charge of education; and

45 WHEREAS, the elimination of the United States Department of Education is not only a  
46 constitutional necessity but will also ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent more efficiently and  
47 lead to better student outcomes:

48 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of state of Utah supports  
49 federal efforts to eliminate the United States Department of Education and strongly urges the  
50 United States Congress to fully cooperate with these efforts.

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Utah is the best managed state in the nation and can  
52 manage its affairs more affordably, effectively, and efficiently than the federal government.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Utah has demonstrated time and again the ability to be  
54 an effective and prudent steward of taxpayers' hard earned dollars.

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Utah stands uniquely prepared to prove the concept of  
56 allowing the states to manage federal tax dollars for the public education system.