

Budget Brief – Minimum School Program Overview

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SUMMARY

The Minimum School Program (MSP) provides state support for the operation and maintenance of Utah’s public schools. Five programs collectively comprise the MSP: the Basic School Program, Related to Basic Programs, Special Populations, Board and Voted Leeway Programs, and Other Programs. Program funding supports educational programs in the school districts and charter schools reaching over 537,650 students. School districts and charter schools receive MSP funding on a formula basis that equalizes state revenues (along with some local property tax revenue) on a weighted pupil basis.

Budget Brief Organization

Two additional Budget Briefs detail issues and recommendations for the FY 2008 Supplemental and FY 2009 Minimum School Program. The first brief concentrates on the Basic School Program and the second brief details the remainder of the program. These briefs reference Issue Briefs that detail specific budgetary items.

PROGRAM BUDGET

The FY 2009 base budget for the Minimum School Program totals more than \$2.9 billion. Since 2005, the total MSP has increased approximately 37.4 percent. Student enrollment over the same time frame has increased approximately 11 percent.

Minimum School Program revenue comes from three primary sources. The Uniform School Fund provides the largest source of revenue, with \$2,306,524,711. Local property tax revenue contributes \$592,118,974 from four local property tax levies, specifically, the Basic Levy, the Voted Leeway, the Board Leeway, and the Board Leeway – Reading Program. Finally, the interest and dividends revenue generated from school trust lands provides \$21,000,000 to the FY 2009 base budget.

MINIMUM SCHOOL PROGRAM TABLE

The table “Minimum School Program – 2008 General Session” (see folded insert) provides a comprehensive look at the FY 2008 Supplemental and FY 2009 Minimum School Program base budget. Individual programs and funding levels may be found in this table, as well as total revenues and expenditures for the program.

Detailed program may be found in the Public Education – Compendium of Budget Information (COBI). Chapters 2 through 9 of the COBI feature the various programs, formulas, and revenue allocations of the various programs within the Minimum School Program.

