

# Charter Schools – An Integral Part of the Utah Public Education System

Prepared by the  
Office of Legislative Research & General Counsel  
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# What is a Charter School?

Charter schools are public schools open to all students, and operate on public funds without tuition.

# How Do You Start a Charter School?

- Complete an application and write a charter
- Approval by a chartering entity
  - State
  - School
  - Home
- App

A charter is a ***Contract*** between the charter school and the chartering entity

# Application Includes

- School's mission, performance goals, and accountability plan
- Business and technology plans
- Grade levels, class sizes, and target population to be served
- Potential physical location and relative school district, degree of community support
- Three-year budget and fiscal procedures and policies
- Model of governance and school operations
- Intended curriculum
- Student enrollment procedures
- Special education plan and assurances
- Teacher evaluation policies

# Which Entities Charter?

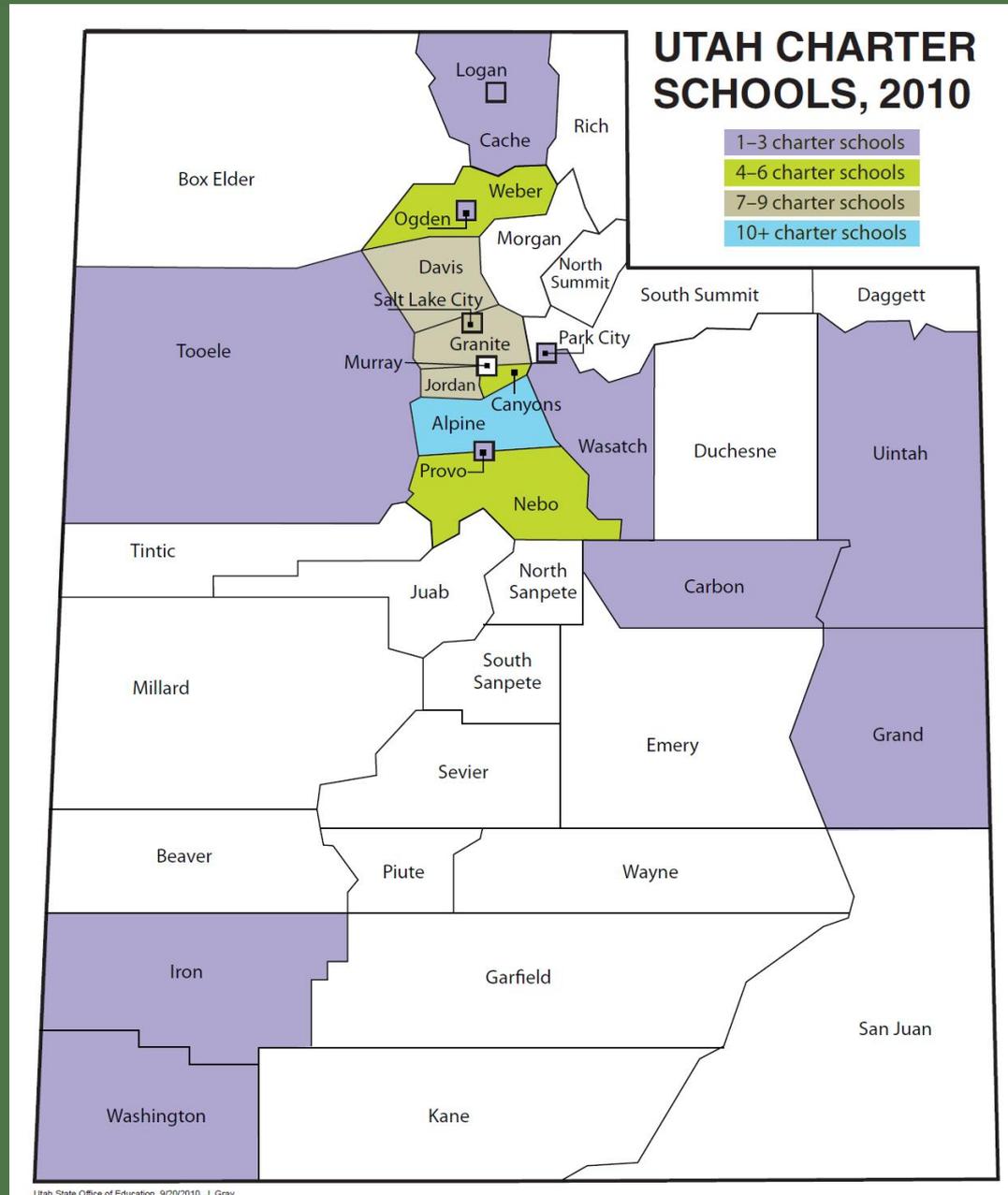
Chartering Entity	# of Schools Chartered
State Charter School Board	68
School Districts:	
Cache	1
Iron	1
Jordan	1
Logan	2
Salt Lake City	3

# State Charter School Board

- 7 members appointed by the Governor
  - 2 finance/small business management
  - 3 from nominations from Utah's charter schools
  - 2 from nominations from Utah State Board of Education

## Districts where 5 or more charter schools are located:

- Alpine (13)
- Davis (7)
- Jordan (7)
- Salt Lake (7)
- Granite (6)
- Canyons (5)
- Nebo (5)

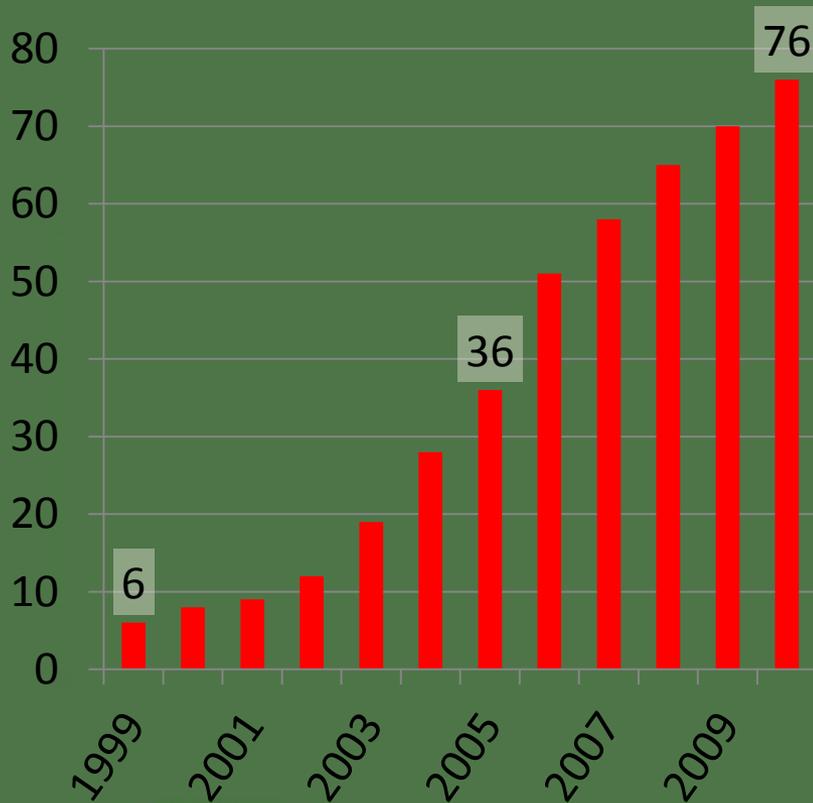


# Charter School Enrollment

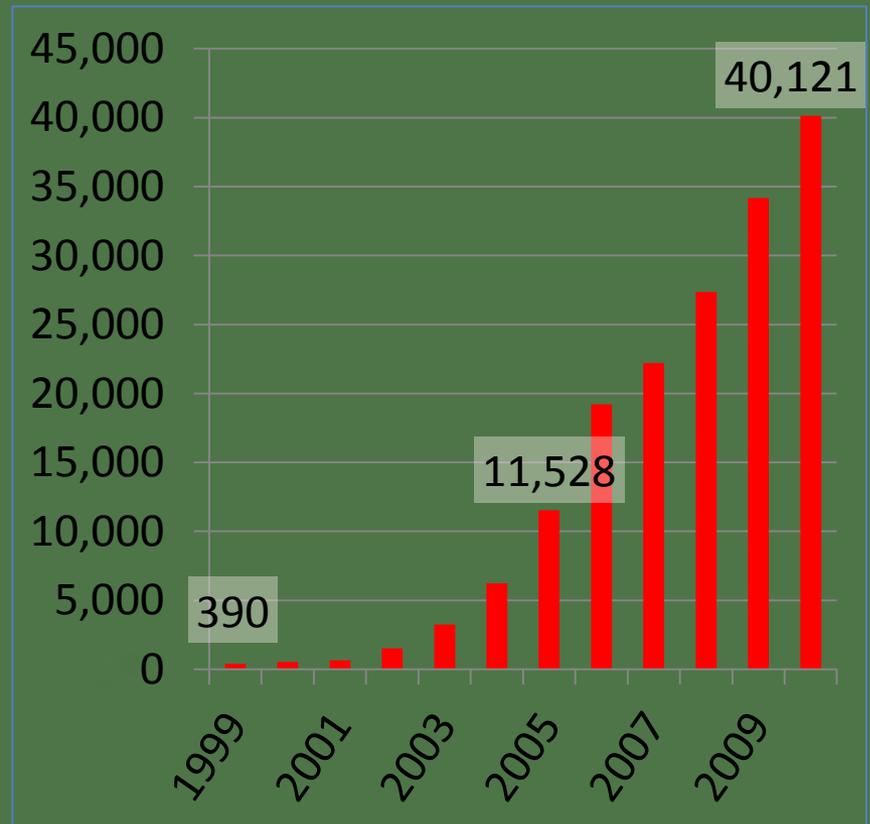
- 2010 enrollment was 40,121
- 7% of total public
- 2010 Largest District Enrollments
  - Granite 68,573
  - Alpine 66,044
  - Davis 66,019
  - Jordan 49,729
  - Canyons 33,469

# School and Enrollment Growth

## Growth in charter schools



## Growth in charter enrollments



# New Charters Opening Aug. 2011

Charter School	Grades Served	Location (District)	Chartering Entity
Alianza Academy	K-8	Statewide	State Board
American Preparatory Academy – Accelerated School	K-9	Draper (Canyons)	State Board
Bear Canyon High School for the Sports and Medical Sciences	10-12	Kaysville (Davis)	State Board
Utah Connections Academy	K-12	Statewide	State Board

# Legal Status/Governance

- Public school/Nonprofit corporation
- Accountable to chartering entity for performance
- Tort liability – same as other public schools
- Subject to:
  - Open and Public Meetings Act
  - GRAMA

# Charter School Requirements

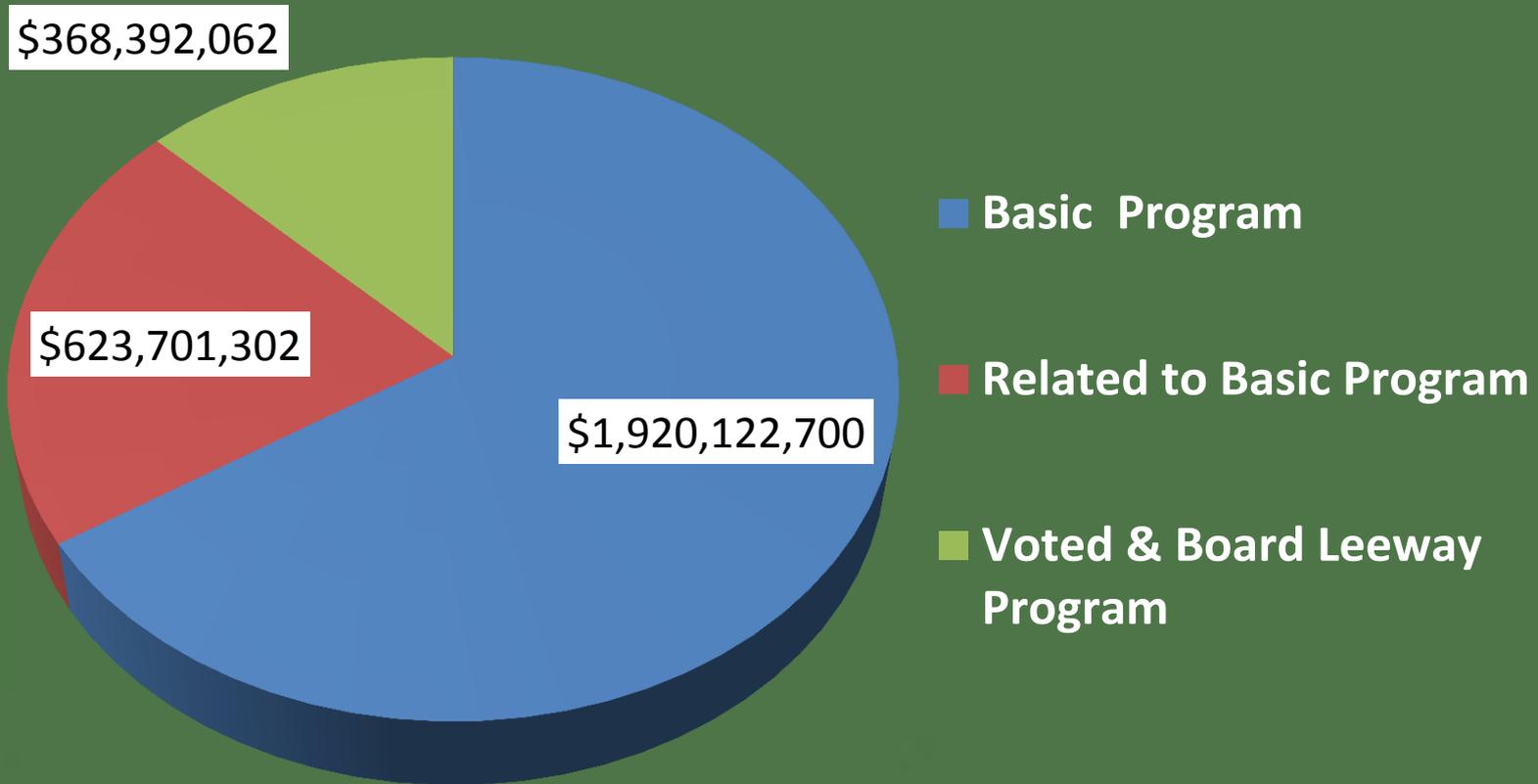
- Nonsectarian
- No tuition
- Admission
  - open to all state residents
  - based on lottery, some exceptions
- Meet all applicable federal, state, & local laws

# Exceptions from Other Public Schools

- May not levy property taxes
- Not required to:
  - Provide pupil transportation
  - Have a library
  - Establish a school community council
  - Use building as civic center
- Exempt from:
  - Utah Orderly School Termination Procedures Act
  - Educator Evaluation Program
- May opt into Public Employees' Contributory Retirement Act

# Minimum School Program Expenditures

FY 2010-11 = \$2,912,216,064



Data Source: Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst

# Basic Program

Number of WPU's  
X WPU value (\$2,577)  
= Basic Program cost

# Related to Basic Programs

“Below the line” programs, not based on WPUUs, for example:

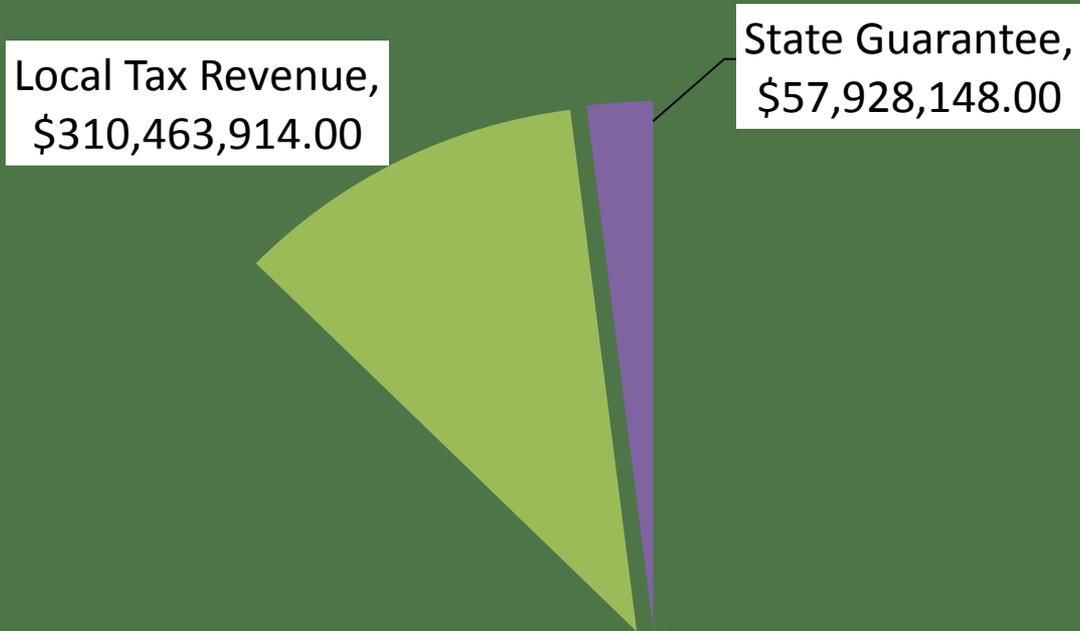


Pupil transportation miles



Number of teachers

# Voted & Board Leeway Program



Data Source: Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst

# Charter School Funding

Charter schools are funded the same as school districts except:

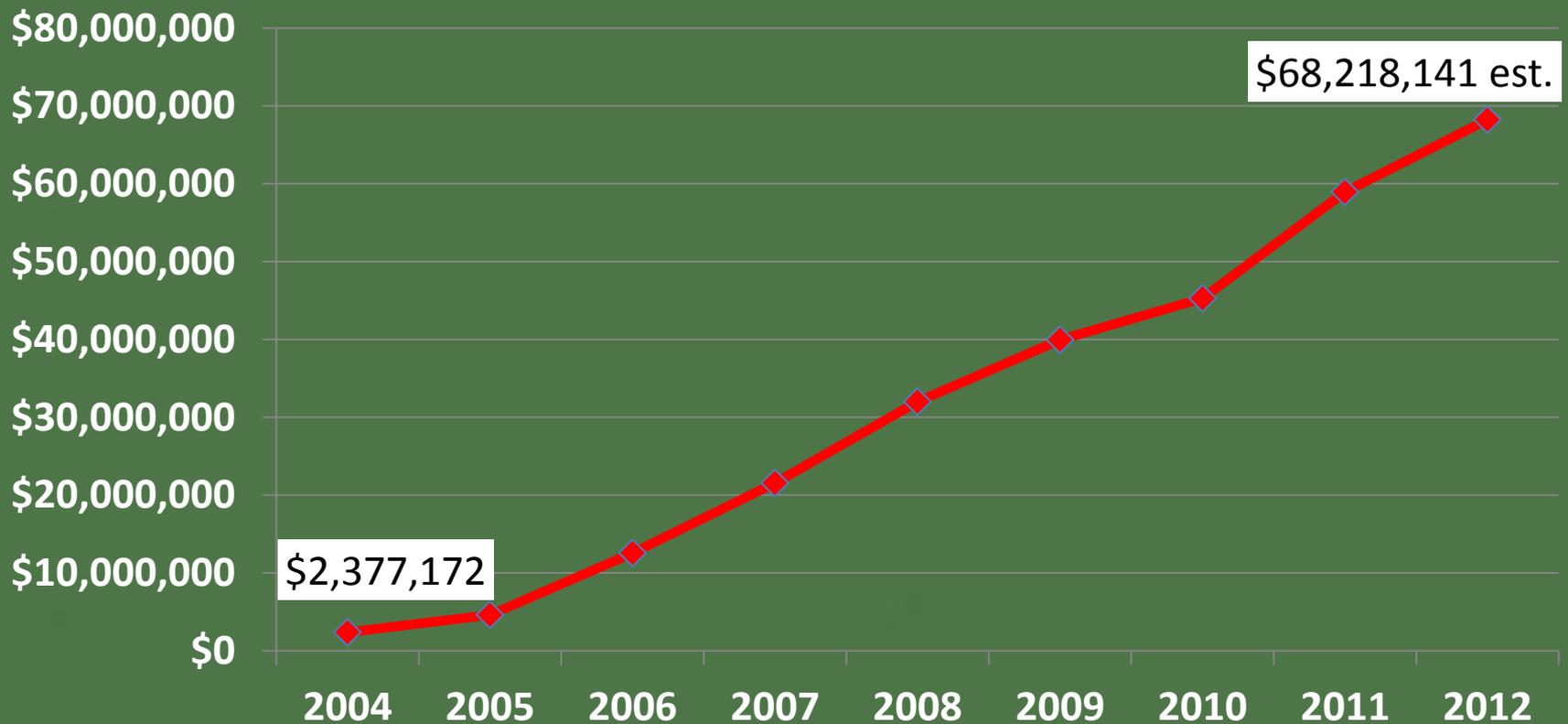
- \$100 per pupil for charter school administrative costs
- No pupil transportation funds
- Grade weights
- Local Replacement Funding – to replace local school district property tax revenue

# Local Replacement Funds

- \$1,673 (est.) per pupil for FY 2011-12
- Includes average district per pupil revenues from local property tax levies except:
  - Recreation levy
  - Reading levy
  - Transportation levy
  - Judgment levy

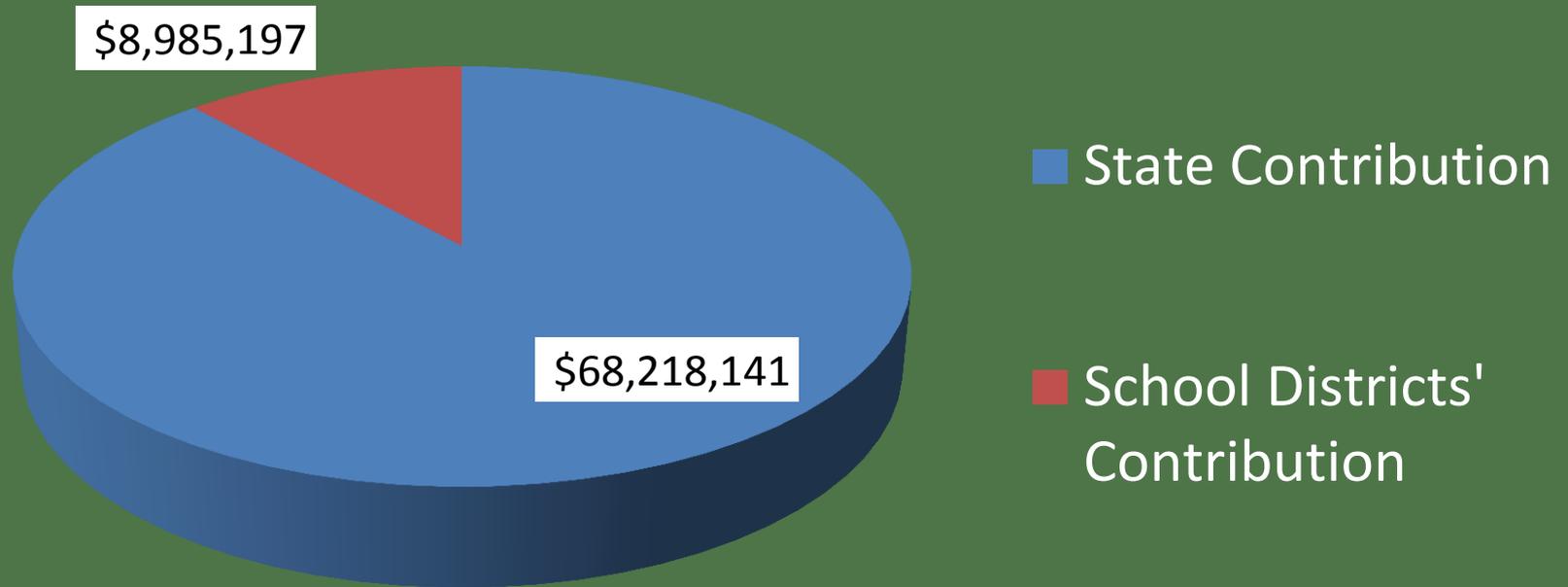
# Local Replacement Funds

## State Appropriations



# State and School Districts' Contributions to Local Replacement Funding

FY 2011-12



# Studies/Research

- Legislative Audits
  - 2010 - Charter School Oversight
  - 2007 - Utah Charter Schools
- 2006 Report to Executive Approps. Committee
  - OLRGC, LFA, USOE
- 2006 Utah Charter School Study
  - Utah Policy Education Center
- 2005 Challenges Facing Utah Charter Schools
  - Utah Foundation Research Report

**Please feel free to contact  
the Education Team with any questions:**

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**

**(801) 538-1032**