



# SENATE BILL 34 – STATEWIDE DATA ALLIANCE AND UTAH FUTURES

EXECUTIVE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
STAFF: ANGELA J. OH & R. BEN LEISHMAN

ISSUE BRIEF

## SUMMARY

During the 2014 General Session, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 34, Statewide Data Alliance and Utah Futures. The bill amended provisions related to Utah Futures and established an evaluation panel to evaluate Utah Futures and determine whether any or all components of Utah Futures should be outsourced to a private provider. The bill requires the evaluation panel to report to the Executive Appropriations Committee on or before September 30, 2014.

The bill also appropriated money to support a statewide data system for public education, higher education, and the workforce. The table below shows the amounts that were appropriated to each entity as outlined in the bill. These amounts closely mirror the expenditures for the Utah Data Alliance.

<i>Entity</i>	<i>Fund</i>	<i>Amount</i>	
		<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>One-Time</i>
Utah Education Network	Education Fund	\$ 345,000	\$ 300,000
Utah State Board of Education	Education Fund	\$ 355,000	
Utah College of Applied Technology	Education Fund	\$ 245,000	
State Board of Regents	Education Fund	\$ 245,000	
Utah Education Policy Center	Education Fund	\$ 310,000	
		\$ 1,500,000	\$ 300,000

The Legislature may wish to consider the following in reference to the evaluation panel’s report on Utah Futures:

1. What are the various costs and benefits associated between using a private provider technology versus using a built in-house version?
2. What, if any, additional resources will be requested to implement the evaluation panel’s recommendations?
3. What measures are being implemented to ensure that user data will not be compromised?
4. Does the evaluation panel have any recommendations on performance measures to determine the efficacy of Utah Futures?

## BACKGROUND

### *Utah Futures*

Utah Futures is a state consortium that includes the Utah State Office of Education, Utah System of Higher Education, Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority, Utah State Library, Utah Department of Heritage & Arts, Utah Education Network, Utah College of Applied Technology, Utah Department of Workforce Services, and Utah’s GEARUP State Grant.

The partners work together to provide a collaborative education and career exploration experience. Their goal is to:

- Assist Utah residents in making informed decisions about education, career opportunities, financial aid options, training and employment;
- Identify and fill gaps in state resources, including the addition of an education and employment electronic portfolio tool;
- Integrate existing resources from different agencies into a single online planning application;
- Maximize the impact of financial investments in information technology by the Alliance members; and
- Coordinate efforts to deploy information technology within the State of Utah for purposes of providing career exploration and post-secondary education.<sup>1</sup>

### ***Utah Data Alliance***

The Utah Data Alliance is a multi-agency collaborative partnership organized to:

- Develop and maintain Utah’s only comprehensive statewide longitudinal data system (SLDS) to enable examination of educational progress and outcomes over time, from preschool, and K12 through postsecondary public education and into the workforce;
- Coordinate and conduct research and analyses to answer questions about the success of policies, programs, services at all levels of education, and career employment preparation; and
- Fulfill Utah’s goal of continuous improvement by providing information about the effectiveness, efficiency, and quality of education and career-related programs and services.

The Utah Data Alliance partners are: Utah State Office of Education, Utah System of Higher Education, Utah Education Policy Center, Utah Department of Workforce Services, Utah Education Network, and Utah College of Applied Technology.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Source: <https://utahfutures.org/faq> accessed on 19 August 2014.

<sup>2</sup> Source: <http://www.utahdataalliance.org/about.shtml> accessed on 27 August 2014.