

OFFICE OF THE
**LEGISLATIVE
 FISCAL
 ANALYST**

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 DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM FOR EXECUTIVE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

FROM: Ben Leishman, Finance Manager
DATE: November 18, 2019
SUBJECT: Initial FY 2021 Enrollment Growth Estimate

Student enrollment in Utah’s public schools continues to increase. As student enrollment increases, various factors within the Minimum School Program adjust to account for these students and other statutory rate changes.

Each year, the Common Data Committee (LFA, GOMB, USBE) develops consensus estimates for student enrollment growth, corresponding weighted pupil units, and the taxable value of property in each school district. We are still working out some factors and will report details when the calculations are final. The following sections provide detail on consensus enrollment, weighted pupil units (WPU), and a high enrollment growth cost estimate.

Student Growth

In fall 2019, Utah’s public schools enrolled 667,403 students. This is 1,215 students more than we estimated last fall.

We estimate that an additional 7,902 students will likely enroll in fall 2020, for a total of 675,305. This represents an increase of 1.18 percent.

Weighted Pupil Units

When converted to WPU, the 675,305 anticipated fall 2020 enrollment produces 888,155 WPU. This is an increase of 9,459 WPU over the current fiscal year.

Estimated Enrollment Growth Costs – 2020 General Session

2020 General Session Enrollment Growth Costs (Preliminary High Estimate)	In Millions
Basic School Program (Weighted Pupil Units)	\$33.4
Basic Levy - Growth in New Taxable Properties (Offset)	(\$17.3)
Subtotal - Basic School Program	\$16.1
Related to Basic School Program (Below-the-Line), Voted & Board Local Levies	\$34.1
Total Enrollment Growth Cost Estimate - Ongoing	\$50.2
Total Enrollment Growth Cost Estimate - One-time (2020 Supplemental)	\$4.3

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