

# **Education: Preschool – Postsecondary**

**Bagels and Briefings**

**OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
AND GENERAL COUNSEL**

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# Outline

**P-20 Education Systems**

**Pre-Kindergarten**

**Constitutional Powers**

**K-12 Education**

Governance

Funding

**Higher Education**

# **P-20 Education Systems**



# P-20 Education Systems



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About Research Advisory Board

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## Statewide P-20 Goals and Outcomes Metrics (Phase I Draft)

The P-20 metrics are used to measure educational attainment and achievement throughout every level of the education system. These metrics will help stakeholders in informing policy, and understanding the health and performance of the educational system in Utah.

Peer states are used throughout these metrics to measure Utah against similar states, as well as benchmark states to ensure Utah strives for the best.



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# Pre-Kindergarten





# PreK

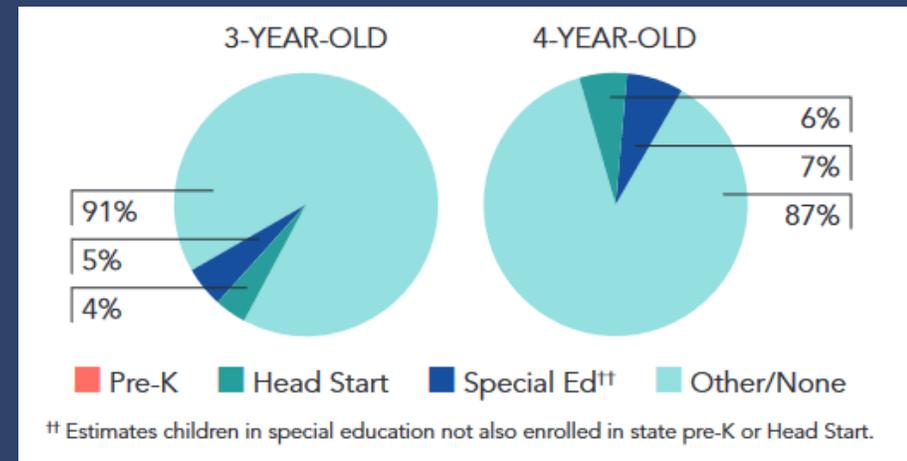
## State Landscape

### 20,300 students in PreK programs at LEAs

- 9% of 3-year olds; 13% of 4-year-olds

### About 450 LEA PreK sites in Utah

- Mostly funded with Title I and IDEA
- 20 programs at 184 sites receive state funding



The State of Preschool 2018, NIEER (2019)



# PreK

- **State-Funded**

- Expanded Student Access (Formerly School Readiness Initiative)

- Department of Workforce Services

- UPSTART

- **Federally-Funded**

- Title I

- IDEA

- Head Start

- Childcare & Development Fund



# PreK

## State Funded

### Expanded Student Access

- Expand access to early learning programs for economically-disadvantaged or English learner students; improve the quality of preschool.
- \$6 million annual appropriation.
- Department of Workforce Services

### UPSTART

- School readiness software for preschoolers, focus on reading.
- Participation: focus on specific districts and a diverse student population (socioeconomic, ethnic, geographic).
- Funded by the state (\$9.7M 2019), managed by Waterford.
- 19,800 registered students in late 2019.
  - 39% of the state's 4-year-olds.



# PreK

## **Federally Funded**

### **Title I**

- **Schools with high numbers of students from low-income families**

### **IDEA**

- **Students with special needs**

### **Head Start**

### **Childcare & Development Fund**

# Constitutional Powers





## Legislature

### Constitutional Powers

- Establish and maintain the Public Education System and a higher education system.
- Designate additional schools and programs to be part of the Public Education System



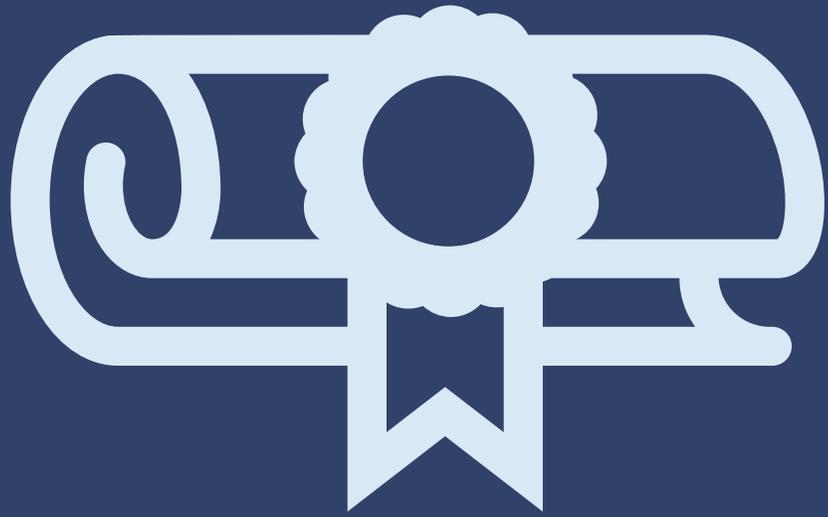


# State Board of Education

## Constitutional Powers

- Created in the Constitution
- Has general control and supervision over the public education system





# Higher Education

## Constitutional Powers

- Legislature provides for establishment and maintenance of higher education system.
  - Includes: public universities, colleges, and others as directed by the Legislature.
- General control and supervision through statute.



# K-12 Education



# Demographics Overview



- Utah has over 666,000 students.
- **41 school districts (920+ schools, K-12)**
  - The five largest school districts in Utah are Alpine (79,121), Davis (71,787), Granite (63,064) and Jordan (54,668), Nebo (32,923)
- There are 10 school districts with 1,500 or fewer students (Beaver, Daggett, Garfield, Grand, Kane, North Summit, Piute, Rich, Tintic, and Wayne.)

- **About 130 charter schools (110 charter LEAs) serving approximately 77,000 students**

# Demographics Overview Cont.

- **Utah has over 53,200 English learner students.**
  - Increased by 16,200 (over 40%) from 2014-15 to 2019-20.
- **Utah's student population includes 80,400 students with a defined disability.**
  - Increased by nearly 11,000 (15% increase) from 2014-15 to 2019-20



- **Utah's public education graduation rates have increased from 84.3% in 2015 to 87.4% in 2019. Dropout rates have decreased from 13% to 10.6% over this same time period.**

# **K-12: Local Governance**



**Legislature (104 elected members)**

**State Board of Education  
(15 elected members)**

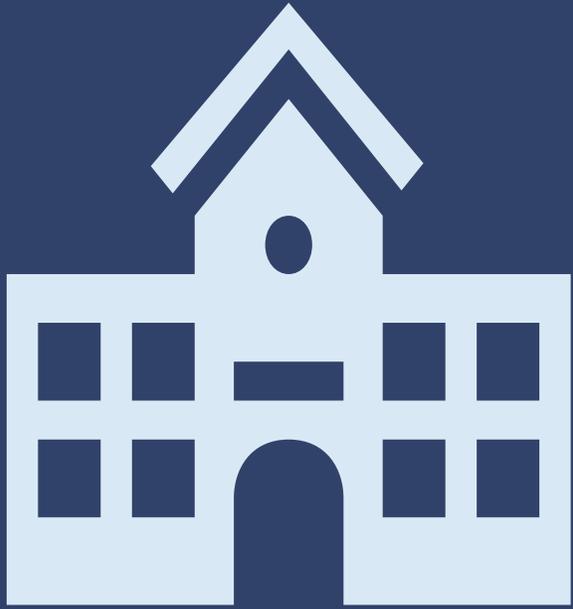
**Local School  
Boards**

**Charter School  
Governing Boards**





# Local Education Agencies



- **K-12 Public education in Utah is broken into administrative units: school districts and charter schools (Local Education Agencies or LEAs)**
- **Each local school district is governed by a locally elected school board that is independent of the State Board of Education.**



# Local Education Agencies

- **LEAs are tasked with operating the schools within its district in compliance with the laws and rules created by the Legislature and the State Board of Education.**
- **The local education agencies can:**
  - Set curriculum
  - Hire employees
  - Maintain facilities
  - Manage their budgets
  - Purchase property, raise money through property taxes and bonds
- **Subject to specified reporting requirements**
  - Annual financial audit
  - Monthly budget report
  - Statewide testing



# Charter Schools

- **Charter schools are tuition-free, public schools that are open to any state resident.**
- **Charter schools have a governing board (membership is determined by the written charter).**
- **Charter schools are treated like an individual school district.**
- **Except where specifically exempted, charter schools are subject to the same laws and rules including:**
  - **Student assessments**
  - **Accountability**
  - **Open and Public Meetings Act**
  - **Government Records Access and Management Act**



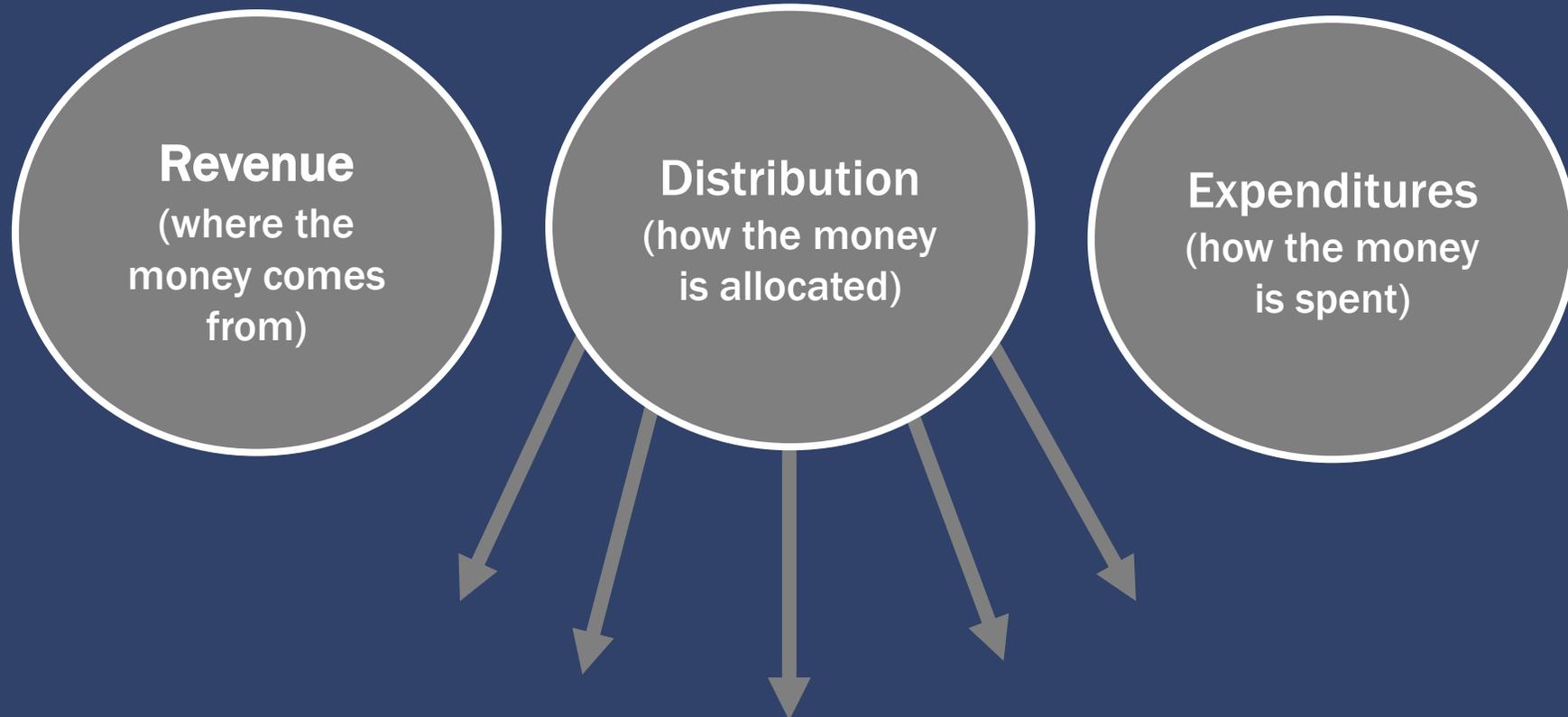
# LEAs vs. Charter Schools

	School Districts	Charter Schools
<b>Public School</b> Open to anyone Receives public funds Accountable to the public	X	X
<b>Sets Curriculum</b>	X	X
<b>Locally Elected Board</b>	X	
<b>School Transportation Funding</b>	X	
<b>Bond Issuance (generally)</b>	X	
<b>Can Levy Property Taxes</b>	X	
<b>Publicly Adopted Budget</b>	X	X
<b>State Laws Apply</b> Special Education Assessments and Accountability School Fees Compulsory Attendance	X	X

# K-12: Funding



# Components of Public Education Funding





# Fiscal Year 2019 Public Education Revenue Sources

**Total:  
\$6.95  
billion**

Billions

7  
6  
5  
4  
3  
2  
1  
0



Federal  
\$455.8 million

State  
\$3.58 billion

Local  
\$2.91 billion

Primarily used for School Nutrition Programs, Special Education, and Funding through Elementary and Secondary Education Act

Primarily Education Fund Pooled statewide and distributed by the Legislature

Primarily local property tax that stay in the district that levies the tax



# Statutory Basis – Section 53F-2-103

- “All children of the state are entitled to reasonably equal educational opportunities regardless of their place of residence in the state and of the economic situation of their respective school districts”
- “Establishment of an educational system is primarily a state function, school districts should be required to participate on a partnership basis in the payment of a reasonable portion of the cost of a minimum program”
- “Each locality should be empowered to provide educational facilities and opportunities beyond the minimum program and accordingly provide a method whereby that latitude of action is permitted and encouraged”



# State Revenue – Income Tax

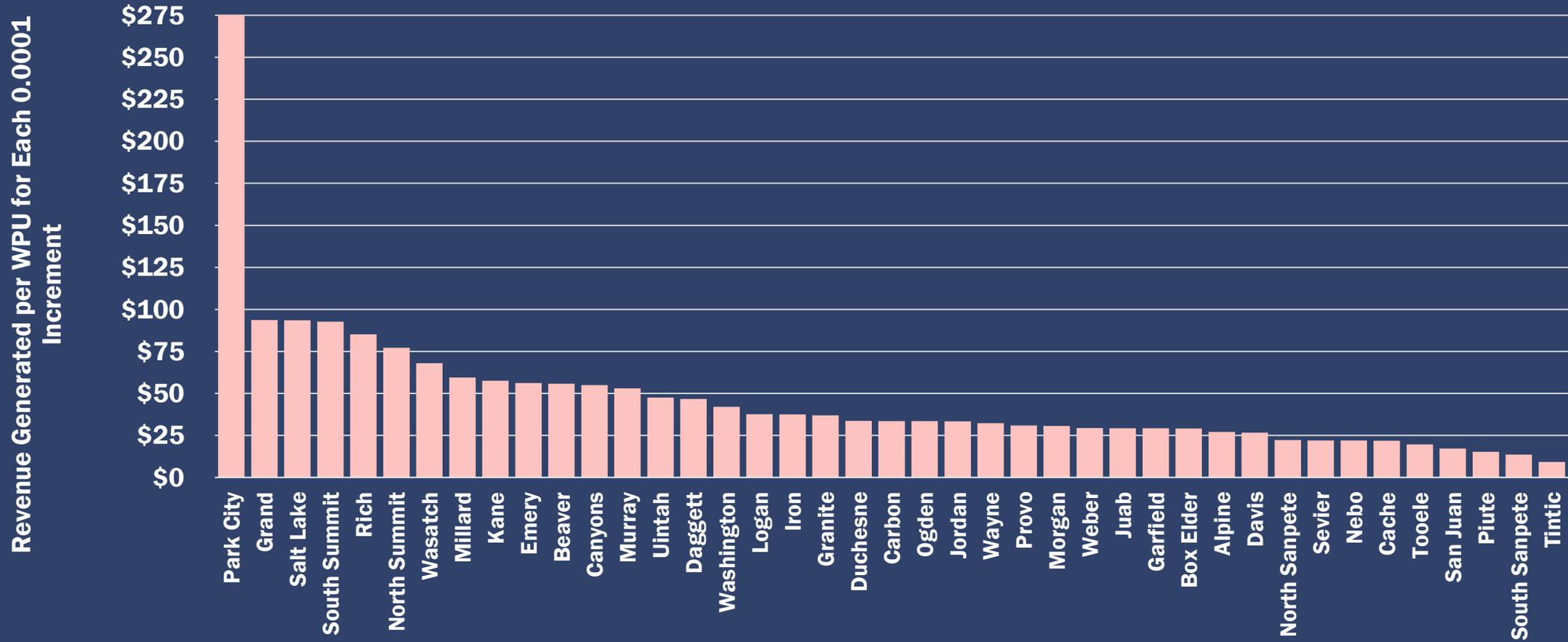
## Utah Constitution, Article XIII Section 5:

- *All revenue from taxes on intangible property or from a tax on income shall be used to support the systems of public education and higher education as defined in Article X, Section 2.*

**Legislature determines the income tax rate**



# Property Tax Revenue Generated by District at a Given Rate





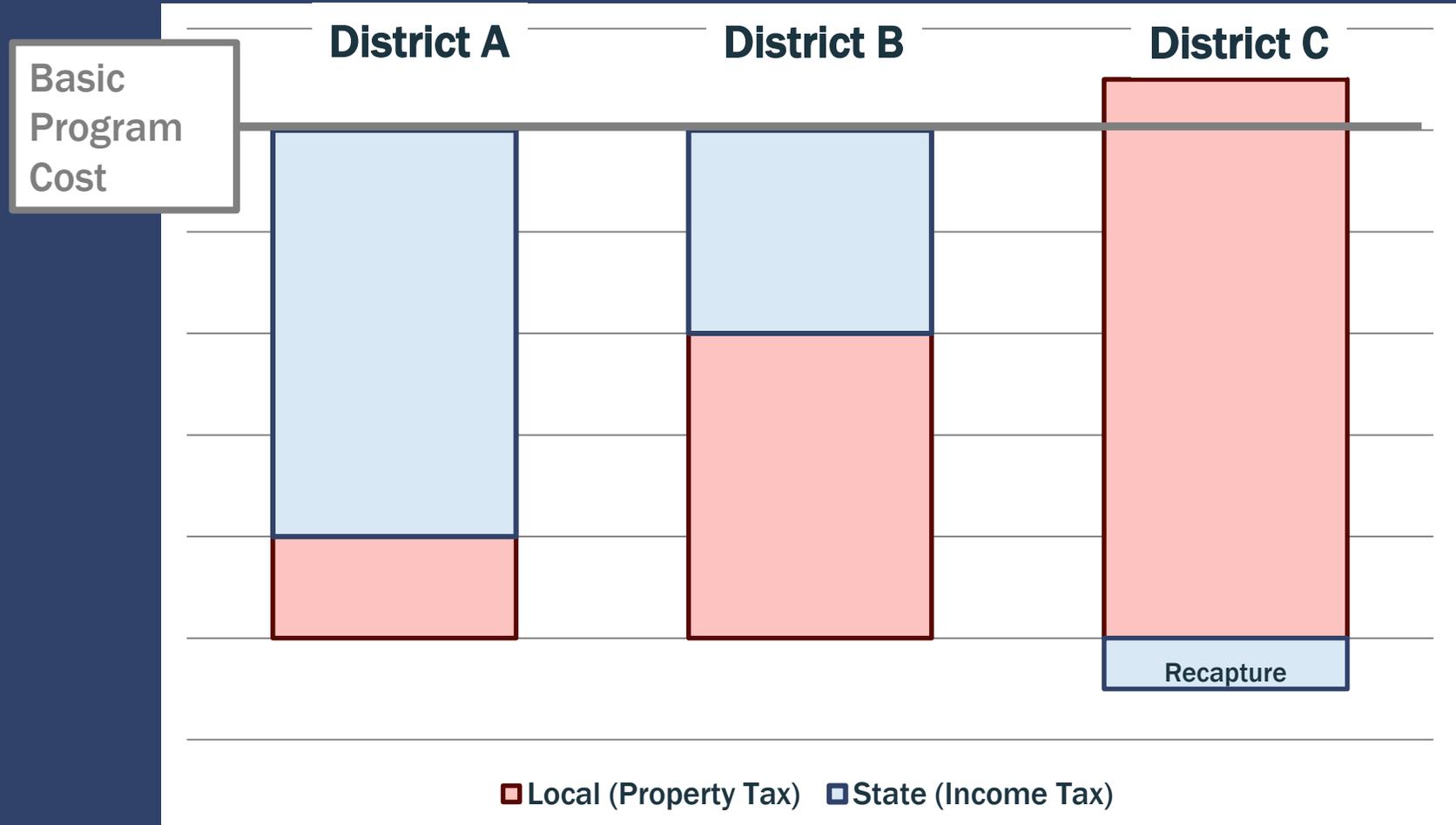
# Local Revenue – Property Tax

Levy and Description	Rate	Extent Equalized	Required statewide	Discretionary set by local school board	Discretionary requires approval by voters
Minimum Basic Rate (Rate floor and WPU value rate) – local contribution to minimum school program	Estimated by Legislature and set annually by tax commission – .001661 for 2019	Fully equalized	✓		
Voted local levy – unrestricted use for operations	Up to .0020	Partially equalized			✓
Board local levy –unrestricted use for operations	Up to .0025	Partially equalized		✓	
Capital local levy – restricted for capital facilities and certain other allowed uses	Up to .0030	Minimally equalized		✓	
Bonds – used for new capital facilities	No statutory cap	Not equalized			✓

# Equalization Example - The Basic Program

## 3 Hypothetical School Districts

- Same Number of WPUs
- Same WPU Value
- Same Basic Rate
- Different Taxable Value



# Higher Education





# Higher Education

## Utah System of Higher Education

(State Board of Regents)



## Utah System of Technical Colleges

(UTech Board of Trustees)







# Other Education Hot Topics

- **Higher education governance**
- **Assessment and accountability**
- **Charter school governance**
- **Education funding**



# Thank you!

**Please feel free to contact any member of the education team with questions**

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