

# Report on COVID-19 Response and Impact

---

Presentation to PEA  
Utah State Board of Education  
August 2020



# Agenda

- ESSER and GEER Funding Update - USBE
- Costs with Opening Schools - USSA
- Assessment Contract Updates - USBE
- PPE Procurement and Distribution - USBE
- Update from USDB, USBA, USSA

# Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) and Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund Updates

Patrick Lee, Utah State Board of Education

# CARES ACT Funding

## ESSER

- \$67,821,787 total
- 90% LEAs 10% SEA
- Reimburse COVID-19 related costs from 3/13/20 to 9/30/21-22
- Survey results used for application and SEA portion
- Application to USDOE
  - Applied 5/4/2020
  - Approved 5/6/2020
  - Grants mgt. system used to track

## GEER

- \$29,189,663
- Assigned to governor
- Applicable to K-16 needs
- Using survey results and current funding formulas to determine allocations
- Includes focus areas of Gov. Herbert (i.e., early learning, SEL)



# ESSER Updates

*ESSER 90%: 129 applications received, 127 approved, 2 in revision*

*ESSER 10%: 24 applications received, 24 approved*

- \$2,075,000 for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to LEAs
- \$780,700 to ensure ALL LEAs receive a portion of ESSER funding
- \$1,500,000 to continue provision of PPE to districts and charter schools -
- \$600,000 additional licensing for early intervention software program (EISP)
- \$1,400 facilitator to assist in conducting school counselor training

# Costs to Open Schools

Utah School Superintendent Association (USSA)

# Potential Costs to Open Schools

- Evaluation of Costs Associated with COVID-19 in K-12 Education
  - Increases in transportation costs
  - Costs for personal protective equipment (PPE) for teachers and staff
  - Modifications to classroom spaces (dividers, spacing, etc.)
  - Installing hand sanitizing stations, additional hand washing stations
  - Costs for technology needs at the home including internet
  - Updated health kit equipment, including thermometers and PPE
  - Costs of personnel to support unfinished learning

# Assessment Contract Updates

Darin Nielsen, Utah State Board of Education

Zac Christensen, Utah State Board of Education

# PPE Procurement and Distribution

Sarah Young, Utah State Board of Education

Zac Christensen, Utah State Board of Education

# Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Procurement

USBE has authorized up to \$3,575,000 in CARES funding for the procurement of PPE for K-12 public schools focusing on items that may be limited for LEA direct purchase due to supply chain issues related to COVID-19.

Current items procured:

- Non-contact thermometers
- Disinfectant wipes
- Hand sanitizer stands and refills

# Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Distribution



USBE has led the distribution of statewide supplies, including 750,000 reusable masks for teachers and students in July 2020. Distribution mechanisms included:

- Local distribution through socially distanced pick-up at USBE
- Regional educational service centers were distribution hubs for rural LEAs
- Distribution through local county offices for teacher KN95 masks and face shields
- Mailings and shipment direct to LEAs

# Update from Utah Schools of the Deaf and Blind

# Update from Utah School Boards Association

# Update from Utah School Superintendents Association

Questions?

# Appendix A

# Utah State Board of Education

# Waivers

# Summary of Board Rule Waivers

[March 19](#) - Waived the 180 day and 990 Hour Requirements of R277-419 and many plan deadlines, including deadline to adopt student fees

[April 2](#) - Waived educator evaluation requirements and many licensing renewal deadlines to Oct 31, 2020

[April 16](#) - Waives additional evaluation and licensing requirements

[May 7](#) - Allows students who have graduated to continue to participate in Driver Education through Dec 31, 2020 and waives requirement for schools in their first year of operation to be accredited to allow an additional year

# Appendix B

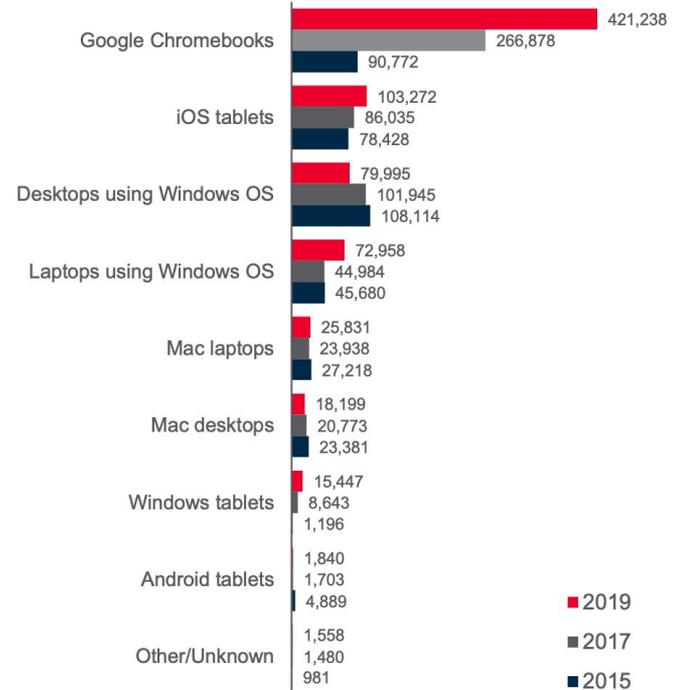
## Digital Teaching and Learning Details

# Availability of Devices

Although digital infrastructure varies in K-12 at the local level, a state landscape report from January 2020 indicated that Utah public schools have **access to more than 740k digital devices** (667k students in Utah). This is 200k more than in 2017.

**Lesson Learned:** *A statewide inventory was invaluable in identifying possible solutions at the state level (and local level)*

**FIGURE 1**  
**COMPUTING DEVICES AVAILABLE FOR STUDENT USE IN UTAH SCHOOLS**



# Device Deployment

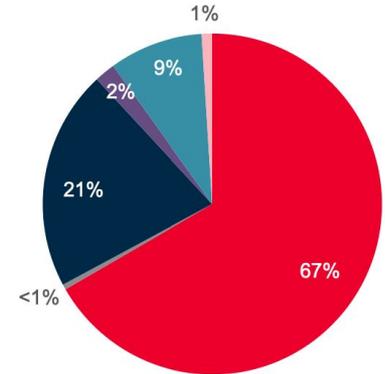
Mobile device deployment **policies vary across the state**. As of March 2020, most schools did not allow devices to be checked out for home use.

The investment in technology was at the school site, and with COVID-19 we shifted to learning at home.

**Lesson Learned:** *Many LEAs have now created new policies to address checking out devices*

**FIGURE 3**  
**MOBILE DEVICE DEPLOYMENT POLICIES IN UTAH SCHOOLS**

- On a cart for in-classroom use only
- No school-owned mobile computing devices, but students are allowed to use their own personal mobile devices under a BYOD ("Bring Your Own Device") policy
- On a 1:1 basis (devices cannot be removed from school)
- Available for check-out from library, media center, or computer lab
- On a 1:1 basis (students can take the devices home at night)
- No mobile devices in school use



# Internet Access

As of March 2020, we **did not have statewide data** to demonstrate the **availability of Internet access in homes**. We sent a survey to statewide tech leaders on March 8th to begin gathering data and worked with partners to create a “Digital Divide” resource document.

**Lesson Learned:** *Capturing a statewide view of Internet availability in homes should be part of our next inventory*

# Statewide LMS

In 2018, Utah invested in a **statewide learning management system for all K-12 schools**. As of March 2020, 60% of LEAs were using it to some degree. This includes 40 out of 41 districts and ~50% of charter schools. The LMS provides access to coursework and learning materials that extend beyond the transitional classroom.

**Lesson Learned:** *This investment and the associated professional learning allowed teachers to transition in a matter of hours*

# Weekend + two school days to “prepare”

March 13th Press Release: “Teachers have up to **two days to make plans to continue instruction**. Remote instruction will resume on Wednesday, March 18, at the latest, and may take many forms. Parents and students can expect more information from their school districts and charters.”

# UEN Resources

Timely information for teachers, students, parents and caregivers to **help learning continue beyond face-to-face environments** was compiled by our partners at the Utah Education Network.

[www.uen.org/learnathome](http://www.uen.org/learnathome)

**Lesson Learned:** *A central place for all resources streamlined communication*

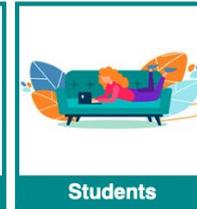
## Learn @ Home



Timely information for teachers, students, parents and caregivers to help learning continue beyond face-to-face environments.



Teachers



Students

Health @ Home Resources



Parents



# Existing State Contracts

Existing state partners worked together to begin offering additional licenses and support to students, teachers, and families.

Examples:

Early Interactive Reading Software Program

STEM Action Center Math Software Program

**Lesson Learned:** *Regular “provider meetings” helped build relationships*





Utah Education and Telehealth Network

# Digital Divide

Over the past month, we have been working with state and national partners to help address the digital divide.

[tinyurl.com/UTDigitalDivide](https://tinyurl.com/UTDigitalDivide)

**Lesson Learned:** *These resources allowed local leaders to connect with the right people at the right time*

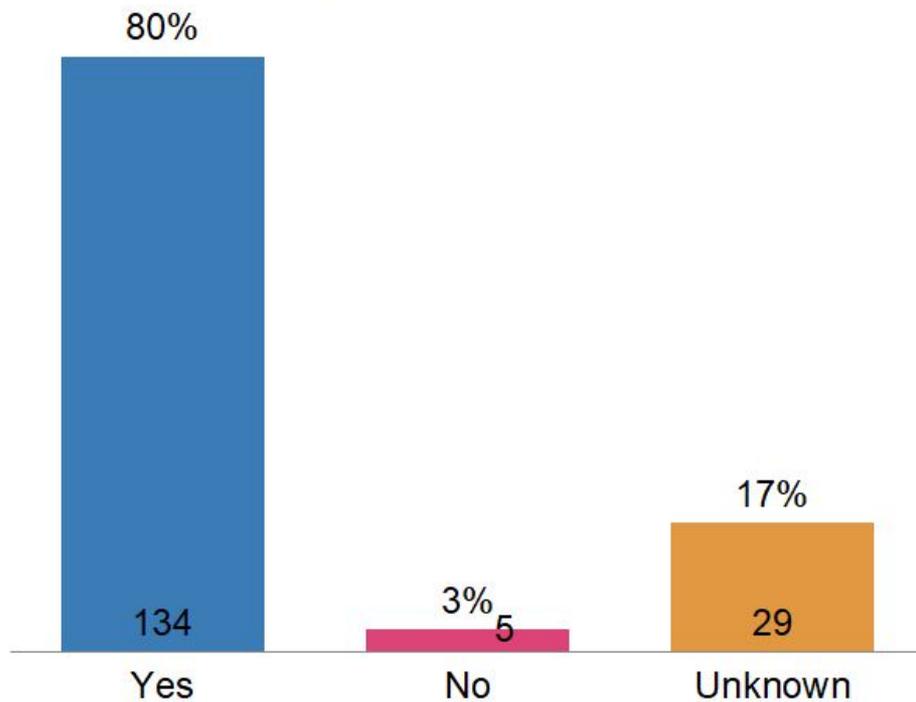
## Statewide Connectivity and Learning Resources to Support Students During the Coronavirus Outbreak Compiled by the Utah Education and Telehealth Network

### Broadband Service (In Alphabetical Order)

- **All West Communications** will not terminate any services because of customer's lack of ability to pay and will waive residential and small business late fees. This company has signed the FCC's Keep America Connected Pledge (see details below).
  - Service map found at <https://broadband.utah.gov/map#/route/minDownSpeed=7&minUpSpeed=9&providers=All%20West&extent=-12456019|4806389|4622324>
- **AT&T** has said it will not terminate service based on the customer's ability to pay. It will waive late fees to residential and small businesses due to economic hardship. They have launched a link with updates at <https://about.att.com/pages/COVID-19.html>
  - Service map found at <https://broadband.utah.gov/map#/route/minDownSpeed=7&minUpSpeed=9&providers=AT%26T&extent=-12481701|4774591|4622324>
- **Beehive Broadband** pledges for the next 60 days not terminate service to any residential or small business customers because of their inability to pay their bills due to the disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic; and waive any late fees that any residential or small business customers incur because of their economic circumstances related to the coronavirus pandemic.
  - Service map found at <https://broadband.utah.gov/map#/route/minDownSpeed=7&minUpSpeed=9&providers=Beehive&extent=-12456019|4806389|4622324>
- **Centracom** is offering free Internet service for households with K12 or college students that do not have internet. This offer is available until the end of the

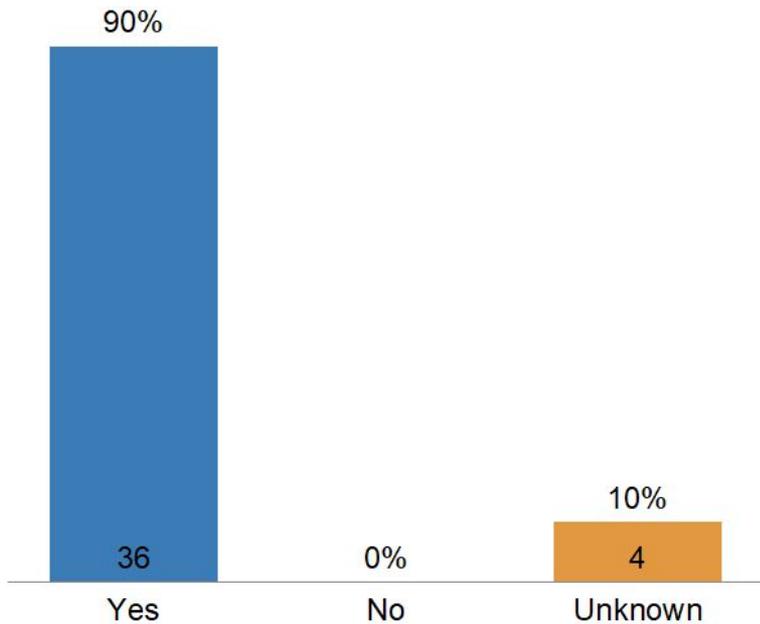


## All LEAs: Computer Checkout Availability



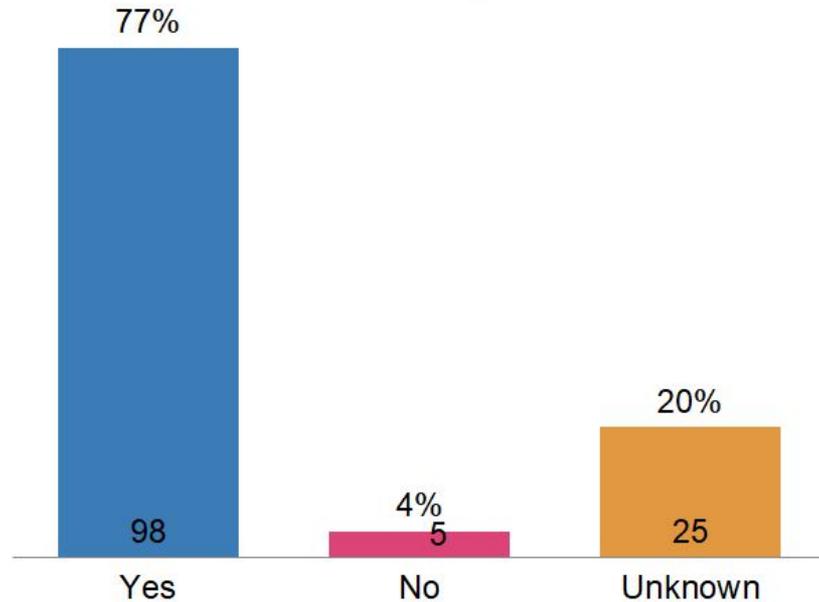
*N* = 168

### School Districts: Computer Checkout Availability



*N* = 40

### Charter Schools: Computer Checkout Availability



*N* = 128

# LEA Internet Details

Hotspots were delivered to families that need internet connections.

Company names and contact information who were providing internet service free for the next few months were provided to families.

For those without internet access, teachers will make lesson plans available at the school or by mail.

Wireless signal strength has been boosted to allow parents and students to access the internet in school parking lots.

We are helping them get internet, and also providing them with additional packets if they cannot access internet even with our support.