

# Budget Priorities for the 2022 Utah Legislative Session

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After fulfilling statutory education funding requirements (i.e.: fully fund student enrollment growth in the base budget; include the WPU inflation adjustment in the base budget; and fully fund the education working rainy day fund to support long-term education economic stabilization), **address the following funding priorities:**

- Provide at least a **5% increase on the WPU** above the inflation adjustment (est. \$175 million). Prioritizing the WPU before more restricted distribution methods allows maximum local flexibility to address ever-increasing demands, such as attracting and retaining quality educators and support staff.
- Enhance funding for students at-risk of academic failure by **increasing weights on the At-Risk Student line item** from .05 to .10 for students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and from .015 to .40 for students learning English (est. \$44.2 million).
- Expand optional full-day kindergarten, over a 3-year period, making it **available to every family in the state** who wants it (est. \$20 million annually).
- Fund **educator-directed flexible preparation and collaboration time** for all licensed educators (est. \$57.5 million).
- **Enhance Special Education funding** by improving the add-on WPU formula used to fund students with disabilities (est. \$3 million).
- **Oppose schemes** such as school vouchers, tax credits, “backpack” funding or education savings accounts that funnel funds intended for public education to personal student accounts or privately-run entities **where taxpayer accountability is lost**.
- Establish a tax system that will deliver **sustainable and growing long-term revenue** to address the chronic underfunding of public education.
- Ensure sufficient future state funding to **continue successful programs started with federal funding**.