Utah’s Public Education Overview: Governance, Accountability, and Funding Systems

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Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

January 25, 2022
What governs Utah’s public education system?

- State constitution
- Statutes
- Administrative rules
- LEA policies
- School and classroom policies
Who is involved in Utah’s public education system?
Utah’s Public Education System
Overview

Establish and maintain a public education system (Utah Constitution, Article X, Section 1)

Role:
• Enact laws
• Funding
• Oversight
State board of education

General control and supervision of the public education system vested in the state board (Utah Constitution, Article X, Section 3)

Role:
• Statewide education strategy
  • Portrait of a graduate (schools.utah.gov/portraitgraduate)
• Oversight
• Policy making
• Distribute funding
• Data collection and reporting
Local boards of education

Role:
- Educating students
- Mission/vision for the district
- Operations
- Curriculum
Charter Schools

- Public schools, public funding
- Operate under a charter contract
- May be exempt from some rules/regulations
- Charter authorizers
- Function as their own LEA
- More flexibility, more oversight
State charter school board

Role:
- Authorizes the majority of Utah’s charter schools
- Approve/reject charter applications
- Charter school monitoring
- Revoke charter contracts
Charter school governing boards

Role:
- School oversight
- Adopt annual budget
- Charter school contract specifies board composition and selection
- Comply with LEA governing board requirements
Utah’s Public Education System
Overview

Families

Role:
“Parents have the primary responsibility for the education of their children...” (53E-2-201)
Who is involved in Utah’s public education system?
K-12 Education Funding

- System revenue streams
- Weighted Pupil Unit (WPU)
- Recent changes to the funding system
Public Education Revenue Sources

FY22-23 Sources - $6.33B

- State Education Fund: $3,815,885,000
- State General Fund: $1,281,207,800
- State Other: $684,527,300
- Federal Funds: $684,527,300
- Local Property Tax Revenue: $7,894,800

Utah Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst, Compendium of Budget Information (COBI), FY22-23, Public Education
Most Public Education Funding is Based on:

- Generation of WPUs
- Revenue for each WPU
- Value of the WPU

(Number of WPUs) X (Value of Weighted Pupil Unit) = Amount of funding for public education Basic School Program

Certain student characteristics (Special Education, Students At-risk of Academic Failure, etc.) result in additional funding through an Add-on formula to the WPU
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Levy and Description</th>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>Extent Equalized</th>
<th>Required statewide</th>
<th>Discretionary set by local school board</th>
<th>Discretionary requires approval by voters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Minimum Basic Rate</strong></td>
<td>Estimated by Legislature and set annually by tax commission – .001661 for 2022</td>
<td>Fully equalized</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(Rate floor and WPU value rate) – local contribution to minimum school program</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Voted local levy</strong></td>
<td>Up to .0020</td>
<td>Partially equalized</td>
<td></td>
<td>✔</td>
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<tr>
<td>unrestricted use for operations</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Board local levy</strong></td>
<td>Up to .0025</td>
<td>Partially equalized</td>
<td></td>
<td>✔</td>
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<tr>
<td>unrestricted use for operations</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capital local levy</strong></td>
<td>Up to .0030</td>
<td>Minimally equalized</td>
<td></td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>restricted for capital facilities and certain other allowed uses</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bonds</strong></td>
<td>No statutory cap</td>
<td>Not equalized</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>used for new capital facilities</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Recent changes

• 2020 Constitutional Amendment:
  • Voters approved amendment that expanded use of income tax to include programs that support children and persons with disabilities (Article XIII, Section 5)
  • Legislature adopted statutory framework that provides stabilization of education funding (HB 357, 2020 General Session)
    • Enrollment growth and inflation in public education base budget
    • Creation of “working rainy day fund”

• 2021 Students At-risk Add-on:
  • SB 142: created WPU add-on for students at higher risk of academic failure. Provides additional funding for students who are economically disadvantaged and/or English language learners.
What did these changes mean for this year’s base education budget?

$263 million additional on-going and $19 million one-time for FY2023

Includes additional funding for
- Enrollment Growth
- Inflation Adjustment on WPU value
- Increasing At-Risk Weighting
- Economic Stabilization Account Deposits
Utah’s School Accountability System

The state board annually publishes report cards for schools and districts with information about their students’ performance in multiple areas, including performance and growth on statewide assessments.

The state board identifies the lowest performing schools, which are subject to interventions.
Utah’s School Accountability System

Five indicators used to measure student progress:

- Performance on state tests
- Growth on state tests
  - All students
  - Lowest-performing 25% of students
- English-language proficiency
- High school graduation rates
- Postsecondary readiness
  - ACT in grade 11
  - Student achievement in advanced coursework

Student performance goals

Five indicators for measuring progress

Statewide assessments

School/district report cards

School support and improvement
Utah’s School Accountability System

Achievement and growth
Achievement/Proficiency: one-time snapshot
Growth: time-lapse photo

Grades K-8: Math, ELA, science, writing
High school: College readiness (2)
English learner assessment

State superintendent recommends, Utah State Board of Education approves, parent review committee
Utah’s School Accountability System

Utah State Board of Education issues yearly report cards for districts and schools, including:

- School performance on each of the five indicators
- Percent student assessment participation
- A-F letter grade, calculated based on school performance on the five indicators
  - The legislature exempted this requirement in 2020 and 2021; the state board has yet to issue school letter grades.
- Other grade-specific information
- Optional: 1-2 other self-reported school quality indicators
Utah’s School Accountability System

Report cards for school districts and individual schools:
Utahschoolgrades.schools.utah.gov

Indicators for measuring student progress
Report cards for school districts and individual schools:
Utahschoolgrades.schools.utah.gov
Utah’s School Accountability System

Recent Legislation

- **S.B. 220**
  - Enacted Utah’s current accountability system

- **S.B. 119**
  - Suspended requirement to issue school grades, 2018-19 and 2019-2020 school years

- **S.B. 3005 (3rd Special Session)**
  - Exempted assessment requirements for 2019-2020 school year

- **S.B. 184**
  - For the 2020-21 school year, exempts the state board from:
    - Identifying low-performing schools
    - Issuing school grades
    - Publishing school report cards
Utah’s School Accountability System Redesign

Better align with:

- Personalized, competency-based learning
- Portrait of a Graduate

https://www.schools.utah.gov/portraitgraduate
Utah’s School Accountability System

Accountability System Redesign

Redesign Committees

Executive Committee (17 Members)
- Utah House
- Utah Senate
- Utah State Board
- Governor’s Office
- USSA/USBA/SCSB

Advisory Committee (29 Members)
- LEA Leadership
- Assessment directors
- School leadership
- Teachers
- Parents

https://civicclerk.blob.core.windows.net/stream/USBE/a961134b-cd96-4ca2-ac8c-e58488c4902a.pdf?sv=2015-12-11&sr=b&sig=OQHnxU1NhGblYxLDSqKDVsunKMgInJAh%2BQltVeEKo%3D&st=2022-01-19T22%3A46%3A29Z&se=2023-01-19T22%3A51%3A29Z&sp=r&rscc=no-cache&rsct=application%2Fpdf
Utah’s School Accountability System Redesign

Timeline

Work Trajectory

The Detailed Work of the Advisory Committee

October-December
Orientation & Foundation

November-January
Theory of Action, Goals, & Uses

January-March
Principles & Components

February-April
Indicators & Measures

March-May
Rules & Design Decisions

March-June
Policy Implications

July
Capstone Report

Policy Recommendations

https://civicclerk.blob.core.windows.net/stream/USBE/a961134b-cd96-4ca2-ac8c-e58488c4902a.pdf?sv=2015-12-11&sr=b&sig=OQHnxU1NhHgblYx1DSqKDVsunKMGJnJAho%2BQlVfeEko%3D&st=2022-01-19T22%3A46%3A29Z&se=2023-01-19T22%3A51%3A29Z&sp=r&rscc=no-cache&rsct=application%2Fpdf
Utah’s School Accountability System

Accountability System Redesign

Public Input

January 19, 2022
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State Board of Education Seeks Public Feedback on School Accountability Redesign

SALT LAKE CITY — The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) and the Utah State Legislature are partnering to reexamine the state’s school accountability system. The current Utah School Accountability System was established through Senate Bill 220 during the 2017 legislative session, prior to the advancement of the Personalized, Competency-Based Learning and Portrait of a Graduate initiatives. The pandemic has highlighted the dependency of the school accountability system on access to state assessment results. The state is seeking to build a new accountability system to be:

• Inclusive of the additional initiatives
• More comprehensive in evaluation criteria
• Aligned with and supportive of continuous school improvement efforts for all schools

For this work to be successful, the state needs to hear from the public on the information needed to better understand school quality. USBE is asking interested members of the public to take a 10-minute online survey to provide input on the future of school accountability in Utah. The survey will be open until February 18, 2022. USBE will offer both virtual and in-person opportunities to engage further along in the process.

Short Link: http://ow.ly/evcU50Hy8zs
Full Link: https://knowledgeworks.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0CIA9UBQ0F210mg

www.schools.utah.gov