

HB 242

School Water Usage Reporting

From 2020 through 2022, Utah drought conditions intensified beyond what most of us have experienced in our lifetimes. While 2023's snowpack provided significant relief, drought-resilient **water conservation measures are always necessary**. Utah is either in drought or preparing for the next one, so we must always use our water wisely.

Outdoor Opportunities

Approximately **60% of municipal and industrial water is used outside**.

Schools are one place we can reduce that use, since schools have large amounts of grass that require a lot of water.

How much? We don't know.

One water supplier reported that the school in their service area was the highest water user, and they have done little to reduce the amount of water they are using. Is this common? We don't know.

Need for Study

HB 242 requires the Division of Water Resources to study water use of Utah's public schools.

- This study will include a representative sample of schools in both rural and urban settings.
- Each water provider and school will provide information about water use and conservation practices implemented.
- The green space for each of the schools in the representative sample will be quantified. This will be compared to their water use.



The division is to complete the study by October 1, 2025. The results of the study will include recommendations for actions that schools can take to reduce water use and whether schools should be required by the Legislature to provide annual water reports of water use.

Additional Adjustments

HB 242 also provides a way for schools and school districts to purchase smart irrigation controllers to help improve irrigation at schools. This will empower schools to make real strides in conservation.

Also, this bill requires state agencies to report annually starting in 2027, creating accountability.