

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
FOR EDUCATORS RESOLUTION**

1998 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR
RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF TEACHER PREPARATION AND
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS; AND ENCOURAGING THE JOINT
LIAISON COMMITTEE AND ITS ADVISORY TASK FORCE TO CONTINUE TO BRING
RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE FOR LEGISLATION OR POLICIES TO
IMPROVE THOSE PROGRAMS.

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:

WHEREAS state and federal policymakers are realizing that the success of education reforms, such as higher academic standards for students and better technology in classrooms, hinges on the skill and knowledge of classroom teachers;

WHEREAS teaching is becoming a more complex and difficult task at the same time that public expectations about student performance are rising;

WHEREAS in 1995 the Staff Development Task Force created by the State Office of Education issued a report that included a number of recommendations for improving teacher development within the state's public education system, some of which were adopted but many of which were not implemented because funding was not approved;

WHEREAS in 1996 the Joint Liaison Committee approved the formation of an Advisory Task Force on Teacher Preparation and Professional Development to advise the committee on ways to link the initial preparation and continuing professional development of teachers through collaboration by public and higher education;

WHEREAS the task force has made several recommendations for improving teacher professional development programs throughout the state, including the need to develop a funding plan to support partnerships between teacher preparation programs and school districts as they address such issues as teaching and learning, mentoring and assisting preservice and beginning teachers, and parental involvement; and

WHEREAS state and national policymakers are realizing that time is the most critical, and most scarce, resource for professional development:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein, encourage the Joint Liaison Committee and the Advisory Task Force to continue to bring to the Legislature recommendations for legislation or policies, or both, to improve teacher learning opportunities in the state and focus professional development activities in support of standards-based reforms.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to the members of the Joint Liaison Committee, the Advisory Task Force, the deans of the colleges of education in the state's higher education system, and the state's local boards of education.